

Tourists photograph holiday displays in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Each holiday season, tour operator Muia takes tourists from around the world on his "Christmas Lights & Cannoli Tour" visiting the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Dyker Heights and Bay Ridge, where locals take pride in over-the-top holiday light displays. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

## Christmas lights tour of Brooklyn is 'All American'

**BETH J. HARPAZ**  
AP Travel Editor

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Tony Muia was born and raised in Brooklyn and always loved the Christmas lights of Dyker Heights, an Italian-American neighborhood where proud locals cover their homes in twinkling bulbs and fill their front yards with life-size Santas and Nativity scenes. Now he makes his living taking busloads of tourists from around the world to see these over-the-top holiday displays, playing Frank

Sinatra on the bus and ending the night with a stop for cannolis and hot chocolate.

"Rockefeller Center, forget about it! Because I'm taking you deep in the heart of Brooklyn," he told a bus departing from Manhattan's Union Square on a recent night.

On board for the 10-mile (16 kilometers) trip to Dyker Heights and another Brooklyn neighborhood, Bay Ridge, were 50 visitors from around the world (Australia, Japan, Holland, England,

Northern Ireland) and the country (Utah, Texas, California, Louisiana, Missouri, Virginia, Florida, New York and New Jersey).

"Overwhelming! Over the top! All American!" was all Brigit DeBoer from Zeist, Holland, could say after wandering past three-story mansions draped from roof to sidewalk in shimmering lights.

Other displays featured a 14-foot-tall (4 meters) Santa, twinkling snowflakes, moving carousels, animatronic reindeer, candy

canes and characters from "The Nutcracker." Some homeowners create a traditional Nativity scene with the Christ child in the manger as their centerpiece, while others take a more whimsical approach, like the man who puts a half-dozen dancing bears on his front lawn, one for each of his grandchildren.

For many tourists, Christmas in New York means the tree at Rockefeller Center, Macy's holiday windows and Radio City's "Christmas Spectacular" show. But

those who booked Muia's tour — most of whom came across him online — said they were excited about going to Brooklyn.

"We've done Manhattan," said Robin Green of Fort Pierce, Fla. "We wanted to see something different."

"We have a few houses like this but not so many in one strip. It's incredible," said Julie Morgan of Sydney, Australia.

Continued on Page 4



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# Egypt delays voting on constitution

**MAGGIE MICHAEL**  
**SARAH EL DEEB**  
**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt postponed early voting on a contentious draft constitution, and aides to President Mohammed Morsi floated the possibility of canceling the whole referendum in the first signs Friday that the Islamic leader is finally yielding to days of protests and deadly street clashes. Tens of thousands marched on the presidential palace after pushing past barbed wire fences installed by the army and calling for Morsi to step down. Thousands also camped out in Tahrir Square, birthplace of the uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak in 2011. A spokesman for Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood urged the group's supporters to practice "self-restraint" after hundreds gathered in front of a mosque near the presidential palace. He appealed for them not to march to the palace and to avoid confrontation. The announcement by the election committee head Ismail Hamdi to delay early voting on the charter came as a surprise, and it was difficult to predict whether it will lead to a breakthrough in the political crisis. The president's aides said the move would ease some pressure and would provide room for negotiations with the opposition. But Morsi's opponents have rejected talks, saying he must first cancel the referendum and meet other

demands. Late Friday, an opposition umbrella group called for an open-ended sit-in in front of the presidential palace. The crisis began Nov. 22, when Morsi issued a decree that gave him absolute powers and immunity from judicial oversight. It deepened when he called for a Dec. 15 national referendum on the draft constitution

hurriedly produced by the Islamist-led constituent assembly. The draft was infused with articles that liberals fear would pave the way for Islamizing Egypt. Legal Affairs Minister Mohammed Mahsoub said the administration was weighing several proposals — including calling off the referendum and returning it to the constituent assembly

for changes. Another possibility was disbanding the constituent assembly and forming a new one, either by direct vote or an agreement among the political forces. "We have a big chance tomorrow," Mahsoub told the Qatari-based Al-Jazeera network, referring to what he said was a meeting between Morsi and political forces. Front, a group of liberals and youths who opposed Morsi's decrees and led the protests in Cairo. In a televised speech, ElBaradei made clear the opposition's demands: cancellation of the declaration that Morsi used to give himself immunity from judicial oversight and postponement of the referendum. "The people are angry because



**Egyptian protesters gather outside the presidential palace after they broke through a barbed wire barricade that was keeping them from getting closer to the presidential palace, in Cairo, Egypt, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012.**  
 (AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

they feel their rights have been raped," ElBaradei said on the ONTV network. "If he takes these decisions, he will be opening the door for dialogue. I hope he is listening." The opposition National Salvation Front rejected talks with Morsi, urging an ongoing sit-in at the palace and warned of assaults on the protesters and more violence. □

"There are no deadlines or referendums outside the country. Tomorrow or day after, we might reach a good agreement." Vice President Mahmoud Mekki also told the broadcaster that he had contacted leading democracy advocate Mohamed ElBaradei to join Morsi in a dialogue. ElBaradei leads the newly formed National Salvation

Front, a group of liberals and youths who opposed Morsi's decrees and led the protests in Cairo. In a televised speech, ElBaradei made clear the opposition's demands: cancellation of the declaration that Morsi used to give himself immunity from judicial oversight and postponement of the referendum. "The people are angry because

## US working with Russia on Syria; wants Assad out

**BRADLEY KLAPPER**  
**Associated Press**

**BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)** — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday that the United States and Russia are committed to trying again to get President Bashar Assad's regime and the rebel opposition to talk about a political transition in Syria, setting aside a year and a half of U.S.-Russian disagreements that have paralyzed the international community. Clinton stressed, however, that the U.S. would insist once again that Assad's departure be a key part of that transition, a position not shared by the Russians. In her first comments on the surprise three-way diplomatic talks held Thursday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.N. peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, Clinton said Washington and Moscow agreed to support a new mediation effort Brahimi would lead. She called Thursday's discussions "constructive," while adding that much work remained and suggesting that neither side shifted its fundamental position. "We reviewed the very dangerous developments inside Syria," Clinton said in Northern Ireland. "And both Minister Lavrov and I committed to supporting a new push by Brahimi and his team to work with all the stakeholders in Syria to begin a political transition." □



# Clinton: Northern Ireland peace requires vigilance

**BRADLEY KLAPPER**  
**SHAWN POGATCHNIK**  
**Associated Press**

**BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)** — Extremists still scheming to spoil Northern Ireland's fragile peace can be beaten through a commitment to political sacrifice, compromise and vigilance, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Friday as she visited a Belfast torn by rising sectarian passions and death threats. Clinton stood shoulder to shoulder with the leaders of Northern Ireland's 5-year-old unity government to denounce this week's violence and intimidation fueled by arguments over flying the British flag. "Peace does take sacrifice and compromise and vigilance, day after day. We've seen that again this week, that the work is not complete, because we

have seen violence break out again," said Clinton, flanked by First Minister Peter Robinson, a British Protestant, and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, an Irish Catholic and former Irish Republican Army commander. "All parties need to confront the remaining challenges of sectarian division peacefully and together," she said. Yet even as Clinton spoke, police in Northern Ireland's second-largest city Londonderry announced they had seized an armor-piercing rocket system used to blast passing police patrols, who still use armor-plated Land Rovers. The weapon was found in a car rammed by police Thursday night in an IRA power base in the predominantly Catholic city 80 miles (130 kilometers)

northwest of Belfast. Police arrested three suspected members of an IRA splinter gang in the car and a fourth man nearby. The city's police commander, Chief Superinten-

dent Stephen Martin, said he was "delighted that we have been able to take (the weapon) out of circulation before it was used for its deadly purpose." IRA die-hards, who are root-

ed in the toughest Catholic districts, continue to plot attacks in defiance of the mainstream IRA's 2005 decision to renounce violence and disarm following a failed three-decade campaign to force Northern Ireland out of the United Kingdom. At the other extreme of Northern Ireland opinion, Protestants opposed to any compromise with the Catholic minority have mounted a series of illegal, violent protests this week against Belfast City Council's vote Monday to stop flying the British flag year-round, a policy in force for the past century. Much of the Protestant anger has focused on Alliance, a small mixed-religion party that seeks to promote compromise between the two camps. □



US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton with Northern Ireland's deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, during their press conference at Stormont Castle in Belfast as part of her four-day trip to Europe, Friday Dec. 7, 2012.

(AP Photo/Paul Faith, Pool)

## Snow could delay a North Korea launch

**FOSTER KLUG**  
**Associated Press**

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — New satellite images indicate that snow may have slowed North Korea's rocket launch preparations, but that Pyongyang could still be ready for liftoff starting Monday. South Korean media reports this week quoted unnamed officials in Seoul as saying North Korea had mounted all three stages of the Unha rocket on the launch pad by Wednesday. But snow may have prevented Pyongyang from finishing its work by then, according to GeoEye satellite images from Tuesday that were scrutinized by analysts for the websites 38 North and North Korea Tech and shared Friday with The Associated Press. The analysis and images provide an unusually detailed public look at North Korea's cloaked preparations for a launch that the United Nations, Washington, Seoul and others say is a cover for a test of technology for a missile that could be used to target the United States.

The launch preparations have been magnified as an issue because of their timing: Both Japan and South Korea hold elections this month, and President Barack Obama will be inaugurated for his second term in office in January. North Korea, for its part, says it has a right to pursue a peaceful space program and will launch a satellite into orbit sometime between Monday and Dec. 22. That launch window comes as North Korea marks the Dec. 17 death of leader Kim Jong Un's father, Kim Jong Il. North Korea is also celebrating the centennial of the birth of Kim Jong Un's grandfather, national founder Kim Il Sung. Images from Dec. 1 showed no rocket at the launch pad, but by Tuesday North Koreans were seen working under a dark canvas, according to the analysis by 38 North, the website for the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and the North Korea Tech website, which collaborated with 38 North on the report. □

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# Christmas lights tour of Brooklyn is 'All American'

Continued from front

"I've been to Brooklyn before but I would never have found this on my own." In fact, Brooklyn has lately become a trendy destination for out-of-towners, with Michelin-starred restaurants, boutique hotels and neighborhoods like hipster Williamsburg offering craft beer. But you won't encounter artists in porkpie hats and Converse sneakers on Muia's tour: This is old-school Brooklyn, home for the holidays. And never mind artisanal concoctions like the Mexican-Japanese tacos found in Brooklyn's hipper spots. Muia takes his tour to the Bella Luna pizzeria for cannolis, a classic cream-filled Italian pastry. At least one visitor, Moe Takeuchi, visiting from Tokyo with her mom, found the cannolis quite exotic; she spent a long time taking pictures of her plate.

Muia, 48, grew up in an Italian-American family in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, and spent 20 years working in hospitals as a respiratory therapist

er brothers named Vinnie and Joey. You can't make this stuff up! I'm as authentic as it gets." His company, called A Slice of Brooklyn, started with a



Lucy Spata outside her decorated home with tour guide Tony Muia in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Each holiday season, tour operator Muia takes tourists from around the world on his "Christmas Lights & Cannoli Tour" visiting the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Dyker Heights and Bay Ridge, where locals take pride in over-the-top holiday light displays.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

before switching to the tour business in 2005. He introduces himself by saying: "I'm Tony. I got two young-

pizza tour and added the Christmas lights tour in 2006. These days, he runs three to four buses a night, bringing

thousands of tourists from Manhattan each season to see the lights. Professional displays can cost anywhere from a few hundred dollars to \$10,000 or more, depending on how elaborate they are. At one home, a blinking light display was synchronized to the beat of "Jingle Bells" broadcast on a local radio frequency. And at the mansion owned by a man Muia called "Sam the Greek," holiday greetings were illuminated in three languages — English, Italian and Greek, Cyrillic letters and all. How do homeowners feel about Muia as he tosses out comments like "You can probably see that house from space!" and "That house looks like a dessert!"? Judging from the affectionate hug Muia got from Lucy Spata as he passed her decked-out house, they like the attention.

At Muia's prompting, Spata retells the story of how her neighbors used to complain about the traffic the lights attract. Her response: "I told them to move." Muia also tells inside stories as he walks along: This mansion was built by a car dealer for his daughter; that homeowner died of cancer and his wife does the lights up in his honor; and this one's married to a Jewish woman, so all the lights are blue instead of more traditional Christmas colors like red, green or gold. Dale Pollard and his wife of Ogden, Utah, were the only ones on the tour who said their hometown has lights to rival Brooklyn. But one thing they don't have back in Utah, Pollard said, is "a house with blue lights that's Jewish." More typical was the reaction of Nadia Boyer of Burke, Va.: "My house is going to look really lame when I get back home." □

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# Support for gay marriage growing, but U.S. remains divided

**MARJORIE CONNELLY**  
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Supreme Court justices tend to say they are not influenced by public opinion. But they do sometimes take account of state-by-state trends, and the latest developments will not escape their notice as they take up two cases related to same-sex marriage.

Support for same-sex marriage among the public has been growing, but the country remains divided. In a Pew poll conducted in October, 49 percent of respondents said they favored allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally and 40 percent were opposed. Four years earlier, in August 2008, the numbers were just about reversed: 39 percent in favor and 52 percent opposed.

A strong majority of younger Americans now support same-sex marriage. In a Gallup Poll conducted last month, 73 percent of people between 18 and 29 years old said they favored it, while only 39 percent of people older than 65 did. Respondents appear increasingly inclined to say they are personally opposed to same-sex marriage, rather than say it should be illegal.

The New York Times and CBS News have asked a

three-part question over the years that has seen an increase in support for gay marriage. In November 2004, 21 percent of respondents said gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, while 32 percent favored civil unions and 44 percent said there should be no legal recognition of gay couples' relationships. In May, 38 percent supported legal marriage, only 24 percent still favored civil unions and 33 percent still said there should be no legal recognition of same-sex couples.

Among conservative Republicans, an overwhelming majority opposes same-sex marriage. By contrast, a wide majority of liberal Democrats favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. Views of independents, and moderates in both parties, are more mixed.

While about half of the country supports the legalization of same-sex marriage, supporters are not evenly distributed. Based on Pew data, a majority favor same-sex marriage in New England, in the mid-Atlantic states and along the Pacific Coast. In the Midwest and the south Atlantic states, opinion is closely divided, but in the central South, a major-

ity opposes same-sex marriage.

About two in three people who attend religious

services on a weekly basis oppose same-sex marriage, according to Gallup. About two in three people

who attend religious services less than monthly favor it.

Regardless, there has been an increase in support for same-sex marriage across almost all groups. According to Pew polls, the percentage that currently favors allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally is far higher now than it was a decade ago in every region, for instance.

Until recently, blacks have been less supportive of same-sex marriage than whites. According to Pew polls conducted in 2011, 49 percent of whites favored same-sex marriage along with 36 percent of blacks. But in their latest poll, there was not much difference in the views of blacks and whites. □



**James Griener, left, and Paul Harris thank clerk June Gaylord after they were the first couple in Clark County to get a marriage license in Vancouver, Wash. Washington state now joins several other states that allow gay and lesbian couples to wed. Gov. Chris Gregoire signed a voter-approved law legalizing gay marriage. Because the state has a three-day waiting period, the earliest that weddings can take place is Sunday.**

(AP Photo/Randy Rasmussen)



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## NYPD asks for a dismissal of lawsuit by US Muslims

**SAMANTHA HENRY**  
Associated Press

**NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)** — Lawyers for New York City on Friday asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by New Jersey Muslims over its police-run surveillance program.

The lawsuit doesn't prove its claims that the New York Police Department's intelligence-gathering activities were unconstitutional, that they harmed the plaintiffs or that they focused on people based on religion, national origin or race, a city attorney wrote in a filing released Friday.

The plaintiffs, which include Muslim individuals and organizations, filed the lawsuit in June. It was the first law-

suit to directly challenge the NYPD's surveillance programs that targeted entire Muslim neighborhoods, chronicling the daily life of where people ate, prayed and got their hair cut.

The surveillance was the subject of series of stories by The Associated Press that revealed the NYPD intelligence division infiltrated dozens of mosques and Muslim student groups and investigated hundreds of people. The city's lawyers argued that the NYPD's information gathering was constitutionally protected, and they emphasized that a review of their activities by New Jersey's attorney general found that no state laws had been violated. □





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# US House leader: No progress in fiscal cliff talks

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. House Speaker John Boehner said Friday there has been no progress in negotiations to avert a "fiscal cliff" combination of automatic tax increases and spending cuts in January and called on President Barack Obama to produce a new offer.

Hours later, Vice President Joe Biden again laid out the White House's terms: raise the top two tax rates paid by upper-income earners and give the president authority to raise the government's borrowing cap without the approval of Congress.

The issue of tax rates is the biggest sticking point as the U.S. moves closer to a fiscal cliff that economists warn

could plunge the economy into another recession. Unless a deal is reached, tax cuts enacted during President George W. Bush's first term will expire Dec. 31, automatically boosting tax rates to levels in place under President Bill Clinton. Obama wants those increases only to affect households with earnings of more than \$250,000. Republicans oppose raising rates on the top earners and instead are offering new tax revenues through closing loopholes and curbing deductions. Boehner repeated the long-standing Republican argument that raising rates would be detrimental to small businesses and "is not going to help our economy and it's not go-

ing to help those seeking work." Obama has insisted that any deal must include an increase in rates for high earners.

"Top brackets have to go up. The top rate should go to 39.6 percent," Biden said, referring to the top Clinton-era tax rate.

debt and avoid a reprise of the debt crisis of a year and a half ago.

"We have to have a mechanism to stop the brinkmanship for dealing with the national debt," Biden said. Boehner's frustration seems to be mounting. He said that the White

on Wednesday. Boehner described the conversation as pleasant "but just more of the same."

On Thursday, two Boehner aides met with a top White House official in the Capitol for a discussion that Republicans said produced no progress.

These officials said presidential aide Rob Nabors insisted that Boehner agree to the president's demand for an increase in the tax rate on upper incomes, and also bow to Obama's wishes for presidential authority to raise the government debt limit without prior approval by Congress. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions were private.

Biden spoke with reporters after having lunch at a Virginia diner with seven people identified by the White House as middle-class Americans who would be affected by a tax hike.

Repeating an attack line increasingly used by Democrats, Biden said Republicans shouldn't "hold hostage the relief for the middle class" in order to protect tax cuts for upper-income people. □



**House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio gestures as he speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012, to discuss the pending fiscal cliff.**  
(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Biden allowed that the White House is willing to negotiate over rates — even as he pressed a new administration demand for authority for Obama to unilaterally raise the national

House has wasted another week and has failed to respond to Monday's Republican offer to raise tax revenues and cut spending. Obama and Boehner spoke privately by phone

## Texas:

# Man linked to Anonymous faces charges

**DALLAS (AP)** — A Texas man who has described himself as a spokesman for the hacker-activist group Anonymous faces new charges over data stolen from the private intelligence firm Stratfor last Christmas, federal prosecutors said Friday.

Barrett Brown, 31, was indicted in Dallas this week on a dozen charges that include aggravated identity theft and device fraud. He is accused of making public an Internet link providing

access to credit card information stolen from Stratfor, which had emails taken during that same hack released by WikiLeaks.

The charges are the latest against Brown, who already was in federal custody before a federal grand jury indicted him this week in Dallas. He was charged in October with allegedly threatening an FBI agent on the Internet.

Brown's attorney, Doug Morris, had no comment about the new charges Fri-

day. Brown was a de facto spokesman for Anonymous, willing to speak for a movement that prides itself on anonymity. The Stratfor breach claimed by Anonymous ravaged the company's servers, leading to the disclosure of thousands of credit card numbers and other information. The latest charges Brown faces is one count of stolen authentication features, one count of access device fraud and 10 counts of aggravated identity theft. □



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## Pearl Harbor dead remembered on 71st anniversary

AUDREY McAVOY  
Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)

— More than 2,000 people at Pearl Harbor and many more around the country are marking the 71st anniversary of the Japanese attack that killed thousands of people and launched the United States into World War II.

The USS Michael Murphy, a recently christened ship named after a Pearl Harbor-based Navy SEAL killed

“missing man” formation to break the silence.

“Let us remember that this is where it all began. Let us remember that the arc of history was bent at this place 71 years ago today and a generation of young men and women reached deep and rose up to lead our nation to victory,” Rhea Suh, Interior Department assistant secretary, told the crowd. “Let us remember and be forever grateful for all of their sacrifices.”

know,” said Schuler, 91. Schuler said he’s returned for the annual ceremony about 30 times because it’s important to spread the message of remembering Pearl Harbor. Ewalt Shatz, 89, said returning to Pearl Harbor “keeps the spirit going, the remembering of what can happen.” Shatz, who now lives in Riverside, Calif., was on board the USS Patterson that morning when the alarm sounded. His more experienced

your courage and tenacity — our nation is truly grateful.” Online, Pearl Harbor became a popular topic on Facebook and other social networks, trending worldwide on Twitter and Google Plus as people marked the anniversary with status updates, personal stories of family and photos. The Navy and National Park Service, which is part of the Interior Department, hosted the ceremonies held in remembrance of the 2,390 service members and 49 civilians killed in the attack. Friday’s event gave special recognition to members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, who

flew noncombat missions during World War II, and to Ray Emory, a 91-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor who has pushed to identify the remains of unknown servicemen. The ceremony also includes a Hawaiian blessing, songs played by the U.S. Pacific Fleet band and a rifle salute from the U.S. Marine Corps. President Barack Obama marked the day on Thursday by issuing a presidential proclamation, calling for flags to fly at half-staff on Friday and asking all Americans to observe the day of remembrance and honor military service members and veterans. □



Admiral Cecil D. Haney, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, poses for a picture with Pearl Harbor and USS Arizona survivor Lou Conter of Grass Valley, Calif. in the shrine room of the USS Arizona Memorial Friday, Dec. 7, 2012, at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Conter was on board the USS Arizona when it came under attack by the Japanese Dec. 7, 1941. (AP Photo/Eugene Tanner)

in Afghanistan, sounded its ship’s whistle Friday to start a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m., marking the exact time the bombing began in 1941. Crew members lined the edge of the Navy guided-missile destroyer in the harbor where the USS Arizona and USS Utah, battleships that sank in the attack, still lie. Hawaii Air National Guard F-22 fighter jets flew overhead in a special

About 30 survivors, many using walkers and canes, attended the commemoration. Edwin Schuler, of San Jose, Calif., said he remembered going up to the bridge of his ship, the USS Phoenix, to read a book on a bright, sunny Sunday morning in 1941 when he saw planes dropping bombs. “I thought: ‘Whoa, they’re using big practice bombs.’ I didn’t

shipmates were down below putting a boiler back together so Shatz found himself manning a 50-caliber machine gun for the first time. The Navy credited him with shooting a Japanese plane. “That was some good shooting,” said U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Cecil Haney who recounted Shatz’ experience in the keynote address. “Thank you for

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# Hamas chief's Gaza visit poses challenge to Israel

IAN DEITCH  
IBRAHIM BARZAK  
Associated Press

**RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)** — The image of Hamas' long-exiled chief triumphantly walking around the Gaza Strip, flashing victory signs beside Islamic militant leaders Friday, illustrates how the group's defiance of Israel is forcing a change in Palestinian politics.

Buoyed by the rise of fellow Islamists in Egypt, Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal and his allies are confronting Israel with the specter of a change in the balance of power between the two rival Palestinian factions — Hamas and the Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah.

Mashaal, 56, who left the West Bank as a child and now leads the Hamas from the Gulf state of Qatar, broke into tears Friday as he arrived in the Gaza Strip for his first-ever visit.

Once on Gazan soil after crossing the border from Egypt, he prostrated himself in a gesture of thanks. He then recited a traditional Islamic prayer and kissed the

ground. Thousands of supporters lined the streets as Mashaal and Gaza Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh drove by, waving and flashing victory signs. Mashaal's visit would have been unthinkable



The exiled Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal, left, and Gaza's Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh wave from the rooftop of a vehicle during a parade following Mashaal's arrival in Gaza City, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012. (AP Photo/Mahmud Hams, Pool)

just a few weeks ago. He would have been an easy target for Israel. Fifteen years ago, Mashaal was nearly assassinated in Jordan by Israeli agents who squirted a deadly poison in his ear, narrow-

ly escaping after the U.S. forced Benjamin Netanyahu, then serving his first term as Israel's prime minister, to provide the antidote. On Friday, Mashaal referred to the assassination attempt by "the foolish Netanyahu," saying, "God

was stronger than him and his conspiracy." But a Nov. 21 cease-fire agreement, negotiated by Egypt, has forced Israel to leave Hamas leaders alone and negotiate, albeit indirectly, with the Islamic

militant group sworn to its destruction.

It appears unlikely that Hamas would ever agree to sit down for peace talks with Israel. The U.S. and European Union have joined Israel in listing Hamas as a terror organization because of its history of attacks aimed at civilians, including suicide bombings inside buses, restaurants and other public places.

But with Israel's relations at an all-time low with Abbas, the Jewish state might be faced with a tough choice.

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, frozen since 2008, seem to have collapsed altogether. Abbas's recent success at the U.N., where he won recognition of a de facto state, angered the Israeli government, which insists Palestinian statehood should be reached through a peace agreement and talks.

Mashaal's visit came just two weeks ago after the bloodiest round of Israel-

Gaza violence in four years. Hamas perceives it came out on top in the fighting because it managed to hold its own despite heavy Israeli airstrikes. It succeeded in maintaining an almost constant barrage of rocket attacks on Israeli cities, with some exploding in the Jewish heartland for the first time near Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Millions of Israelis were in range of the Palestinian attacks.

Eight days of fighting ended with an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire that stipulated Israel would stop targeting militants.

That, along with unprecedented support from Egypt, allowed Mashaal to make the visit without fear.

As a result of that truce, Israel, which officially shuns Hamas as a terrorist group because of suicide bombings and other attacks against civilians, is now conducting indirect talks with Hamas through Egypt.

In a sign of how touchy Israel is on the issue, Danny Danon, a lawmaker from Netanyahu's Likud party, denied that indirect talks were taking place. □

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## Philippine typhoon deaths reach past 500

BULLIT MARQUEZ

Associated Press

NEW BATAAN, Philippines

(AP) — Rescuers were dig-

ging through mud and de-

bris Friday to retrieve more

bodies strewn across a

farming valley in the south-

ern Philippines by a pow-

erful typhoon. The death

toll from the storm has sur-

passed 500, with more than

400 people missing.

More than 310,000 people

have lost their homes since

Typhoon Bopha struck

Tuesday and are crowded

inside evacuation centers

or staying with their rela-

tives, relying on food and

emergency supplies being

rushed in by government

agencies and aid groups.

"I want to know how this

tragedy happened and

how to prevent a repeat,"

President Benigno Aquino

III said during a visit to New



Relatives continue to search for their missing kin following a flash flood brought by Tuesday's Typhoon Bopha at New Bataan township, Compostela Valley in southern Philippines Friday Dec. 7, 2012.

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

Bataan town, the ground zero of the disaster, where ferocious winds and rains lashed the area.

Officials have confirmed 252 dead in Composte-

la Valley, including New Bataan, and 216 in nearby Davao Oriental province. Nearly 40 others died elsewhere and more than 400 are still missing, about two-

## Canada OKs CNOOC's bid for Nexen

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada

approved China's biggest

overseas energy acquisi-

tion, a \$15.1 billion takeover

by state-owned CNOOC of

Canadian oil and gas pro-

ducer Nexen, but vowed

Friday to reject any future

foreign takeovers in the

oil sands sector by state

owned companies.

"To be blunt, Canadians

have not spent years re-

ducing ownership of sec-

tors of the economy by

our own governments only

to see them bought and

controlled by foreign gov-

ernments instead," Harper

said.

Harper's Conservative gov-

ernment has been study-

ing whether CNOOC's

deal and a smaller foreign

takeover, Malaysian state-

owned oil firm Petronas'

\$5.2 billion bid for Progress

Energy, represent a "net

benefit" to the country. The

Harper government also

approved the Petronas

deal on Friday. □

## China blasts US accusation on Tibet

BEIJING (AP) — China on

Friday blasted a U.S. state-

ment accusing Beijing of

responding to a string of

self-immolations by Tibet-

ans with tightened controls

over their freedom of re-

ligion, expression and as-

sembly.

Maria Otero, a U.S. under-

secretary of state and spe-

cial coordinator for Tibetan

Issues, said Wednesday

that the U.S. government

had consistently urged

China to address policies

in Tibetan areas, includ-

ing "increasingly severe

government controls" on

Tibetan Buddhist religious

practice, arbitrary deten-

tions, and the use of force

against Tibetans seeking

to exercise their rights.

Her statement called on

the Chinese government

to allow Tibetans to express

their grievances "without

fear of retribution."

Foreign Ministry spokesman

Hong Lei denied Otero's

claims Friday and said that

China had expressed its

strong dissatisfaction to the

U.S. over the statement,

saying Washington should

stop using Tibet to meddle

in China's internal affairs.

"Tibetan people's rights to

participate in political af-

airs, use the Tibetan lan-

guage, maintain their tradi-

tional culture and religious

freedom have all been

duly protected like other

people's in China," he said.

"Tibetan people's freedom

of expression and assembly

and association are pro-

protected by the constitution."

Activists say at least 86 Tibet-

ans have set themselves on

fire since 2009 in dramatic

protests against authoritar-

ian Chinese rule. Tibet and

surrounding ethnically Ti-

betan regions have been

closed off to most outsiders,

and firsthand information

from the areas is extremely

difficult to obtain.

Hong repeated China's po-

sition blaming the Tibetans'

spiritual leader, the Dalai

Lama, and his supporters

for inciting the immolations

and using it "as an opportu-

nity to attack China's eth-

nic and religious policies."

"Inciting self-immolations

is Dalai's way to real-

ize his separatist political

scheme," said Hong. "It's

also the most cruel and in-

humane criminal activity."

Hong said that in the past

30 years Tibetan areas

had seen "leap frog de-

velopment ... and a great

improvement in human

rights." He said Tibetans'

political rights, language,

religious freedom are fully

protected. □



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## Venezuela's Chavez absent from Brazil Mercosur summit



Leaders attending the South American trading bloc summit, Mercosur, pose for an official group photo at the Itamaraty palace, in Brasilia, Brazil, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012. (Photo/Cadu Gomes)

### MARCO SILBAJA

Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) —

Venezuela took part in its first summit meeting of the Mercosur trade bloc as a full member on Friday, but without President Hugo Chavez present.

Sitting in for Chavez at the one-day gathering of South American leaders in

the Brazilian capital was Venezuelan oil minister Rafael Ramirez.

Venezuela became was welcomed into Mercosur in July. Chavez's absence at the meeting raised new questions about his health. The president returned to Venezuela on Friday after 10 days of medical treatment in Cuba, where he

underwent hyperbaric oxygen treatment. Chavez has spent much of the past 18 months under treatment for cancer and has said he's free of the disease. Present at the meeting were the presidents of the other countries that comprise Mercosur: Dilma Rousseff of Brazil, Argentina's Cristina Fernandez and Jose Mu-

jica of Uruguay. Paraguay, the other Mercosur member, was not represented because it was suspended in June after the hasty impeachment of then-President Fernando Lugo. "With Venezuela's entry, Mercosur now extends to the Caribbean and Amazon," Rousseff said in a speech. "As a bloc we are now the

world's fifth largest economy, with an enormous energy-generating potential, a huge food producing potential and a substantial industrial park." During the gathering, Venezuela agreed to adopt the trade bloc's tariffs on 28 percent of goods covered by its trade regime. All products will be covered by 2016. □

## Brazil remembers famed architect with vigil, samba

### JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The city where architect Oscar Niemeyer was born 104 years ago said goodbye Friday with a public vigil, flowers and, yes, samba.

Niemeyer died Wednesday, 10 days before his 105th birthday, of a respi-

ratory infection. After a viewing in Brasilia, in the presidential palace he himself designed, Niemeyer's body was flown to Rio for a vigil. Men and women filed by his wooden casket covered by a Brazilian flag and three red roses in the City Palace, paying their respects before his burial.

At the Sao Joao Batista Cemetery, a few hundred mourners easily pushed their way into what was supposed to be a closed ceremony, following the funeral procession through the front gates, squeezing into the mazelike space tightly packed with mausoleums and statues. Some

prayed and sang hymns; others waved the Communist Party flag that represented Niemeyer's political beliefs. The traditional samba group "Banda de Ipanema" played at the interment, since the architect was also a patron of the irreverent Carnival troupe. Most of those honoring him

with a last visit were simply thankful for his contribution: creating an architecture that was quintessentially Brazilian and internationally acclaimed. "His legacy is great," said Julia Fernandes Souza, 67, at the viewing in the City Palace. "It will be with us forever. I am here to thank him." □



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## Ex-mayor pledges 1,000 hours service to rebels

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)** —

The unorthodox former Bogota mayor renowned for boosting civic consciousness by mixing street theater with pedagogy has offered Colombia's main rebel group 1,000 hours of his time if they make peace with the government.

Antanas Mockus says the idea is to help FARC rebels transition to civilian life. Mockus told The Associated Press on Friday he's prepared to do anything from offer-

ing civics classes to personally accompanying disarmed rebels to help guarantee their safety.

On a personal level, he says, it will help cure him of hate and resentment. The proposal by Mockus, who finished second in 2010 presidential elections, was made in a letter to peace negotiators.

In Havana, where peace talks are being held, FARC spokesman Jesus Santrich told reporters the rebels are grateful for such initiatives. □

## 4 bodies found hanging from a bridge in Mexico

**PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico (AP)** —

Authorities in the northern Mexico state of Coahuila say police found the bodies of four men hanging from a highway overpass in the capital city of Saltillo.

Coahuila state security spokesman Sergio Sisbeles says the victims found Friday had been tortured and had their feet and hands bound with duct tape.

Sisbeles says none had

been shot and authorities were still trying to determine the cause of death.

On Sunday, police found the mutilated bodies of seven men in Torreon, a city in southern Coahuila.

Coahuila state is across the border from Texas and it has seen a spike in drug-related violence as the Zetas drug gang and the Sinaloa drug cartel fight over territory. □

## Lawyer says McAfee better, hopes to stay in Guatemala

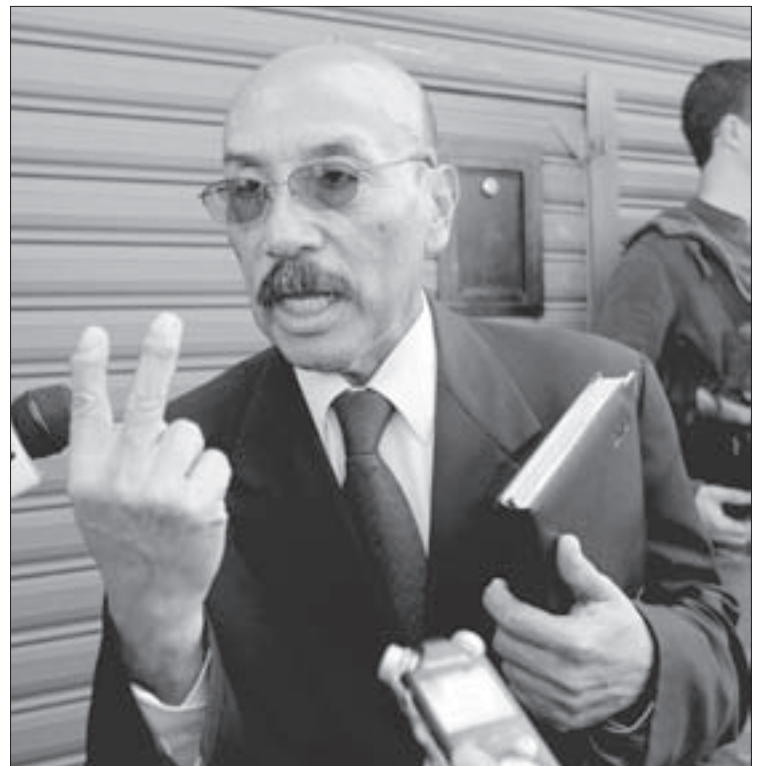
**SONIA PEREZ-DIAZ**

**Associated Press**

**GUATEMALA CITY (AP)** —

A lawyer for software company founder John McAfee says the self-styled fugitive is feeling better after suffering chest pain, and hopes to stay in Guatemala despite the rejection of his political asylum request.

Attorney Telesforo Guerra told reporters outside the detention center where McAfee is being held that the creator of the McAfee antivirus program is in good health, and his team is filing four separate legal appeals in an effort to prevent his return to Belize, where police want to question him in connection with the fatal shooting of another U.S. expatriate. He expects McAfee to stay at least until Monday. McAfee says he had no involvement in the shooting of his neighbor



Telesforo Guerra, the lawyer of software company founder John McAfee, speaks to journalist outside the detention immigration center where McAfee is being held, in Guatemala City, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012. (AP Photo/Moises Castillo)

on a Belizean island, and authorities are persecut-

ing him because he knows about official corruption. □

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# Coffee from an elephant's gut fills a \$50 cup



**A Thai mahout's wife jokingly poses with a plastic basket containing coffee beans freshly cleaned from elephant dung below the tail of an elephant in Chiang Rai province, northern Thailand. A Canadian entrepreneur has teamed up with a herd of 20 elephants, gourmet roasters and one of the country's top hotels to produce Black Ivory Coffee, a new blend from the hills of northern Thailand and the excrement of elephants which ranks among the world's most expensive cups of coffee.**

(AP Photo/Apichart Weerawong)

**JOCELYN GECKER**

**Associated Press**

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE, Thailand (AP)** — In the lush hills of northern Thailand, a herd of 20 elephants is excreting some of the world's most expensive coffee.

Trumpeted as earthy in flavor and smooth on the palate, the exotic new brew is made from beans eaten by Thai elephants and plucked a day later from their dung. A gut reaction inside the elephant creates what its founder calls the coffee's unique taste.

Stomach turning or oddly alluring, this is not just one of the world's most unusual specialty coffees. At \$1,100 per kilogram (\$500 per pound), it's also among the world's priciest.

For now, only the wealthy or well-traveled have access to the cuppa, which is called Black Ivory Coffee. It was launched last month at a few luxury hotels in remote corners of the world — first in northern Thailand, then the Maldives and now Abu Dhabi — with the price tag of about \$50 a serving.

The Associated Press traveled to the coffee's production site in the Golden

Triangle, an area historically known for producing drugs more potent than coffee, to see the jumbo baristas at work. And to sip the finished product from a dainty demitasse. In the misty mountains where Thailand meets Laos and Myanmar, the coffee's creator cites biology and scientific research to answer the basic question: Why elephants?

"When an elephant eats coffee, its stomach acid breaks down the protein found in coffee, which is a key factor in bitterness," said Blake Dinkin, who has spent \$300,000 developing the coffee. "You end up with a cup that's very smooth without the bitterness of regular coffee."

The result is similar in civet coffee, or kopi luwak, another exorbitantly expensive variety extracted from the excrement of the weasel-like civet. But the elephants' massive stomach provides a bonus.

Think of the elephant as the animal kingdom's equivalent of a slow cooker. It takes between 15-30 hours to digest the beans, which stew together with bananas, sugar cane and

you wouldn't get from other coffees."

At the jungle retreat that is home to the herd, conservationists were initially skeptical about the idea.

"My initial thought was about caffeine — won't the elephants get wired on it or addicted to coffee?" said John Roberts, director of elephants at the Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation, a refuge for rescued elephants. It now earns 8 percent of the coffee's total sales, which go toward the herd's health care. "As far as we can tell there is definitely no harm to the elephants."

Before presenting his proposal to the foundation, Dinkin said he worked with a Canadian-based veterinarian that ran blood tests on zoo elephants showing they don't absorb any caffeine from eating raw coffee cherries.

"I thought it was well worth a try because we're looking for anything that can help elephants to make a living," said Roberts, who estimates the cost of keeping each elephant is about \$1,000 a month.

As for the coffee's inflated price, Dinkin half-joked that elephants are highly inefficient workers. It takes 33 kilograms (72 pounds) of raw coffee cherries to produce

1 kilogram of (2 pounds) Black Ivory coffee. The majority of beans get chewed up, broken or lost in tall grass after being excreted. And, his artisanal process is labor-intensive. He uses pure Arabica beans hand-picked by hill-tribe women from a small mountain estate. Once the elephants do their business, the wives of elephant mahouts collect the dung, break it open and pick out the coffee. After a thorough washing, the coffee cherries are processed to extract the beans, which are then brought to a gourmet roaster in Bangkok.

Inevitably, the elephant coffee has become the butt of jokes. Dinkin shared his favorites: Crap-accino. Good to the last dropping. Elephant poop coffee.

As far away as Hollywood, even Jay Leno has taken cracks.

"Here's my question," Leno quipped recently. "Who is the first person that saw a bunch of coffee beans and a pile of elephant dung and said, 'You know, if I ground those up and drank it, I'll bet that would be delicious.'"

Jokes aside, people are drinking it. Black Ivory's maiden batch of 70 kilograms (150 pounds) has sold out. □



**A waitress pours the \$1,100 per kilogram (\$500 per pound) Black Ivory coffee into a cup at a hotel restaurant in Chiang Rai province, northern Thailand.**

(AP Photo/Apichart Weerawong)





## Pasquale and Annette Bortone want to say “Masha Danki”

**PALM BEACH** - Aruba has always demonstrated that our people are very caring and kind to our visitors, especially the visitors whom have been coming to Aruba for many consecutive years who have become family to many Aruban citizens.

That is the case of Mr. Pasquale and Mrs. Annette Bortone, who have become like family to the staff and employees at the Costa Linda Beach Resort. Recently Pasquale and Annette visited Aruba and were staying at their home away from home the Costa Linda Beach Resort.

Everything was very great like always, however on this trip Mr. Bortone became very sick and needed medical assistance at the Hospital.

Mrs. Bortone commented that they were treated so fantastic she wants the world to know, the nurses and doctors were very kind and helpful, but the best of all was the staff at the Costa Linda Beach Resort.

Every day they received calls and visits at the hospital from the staff, friends and members of the Resort whom were very concerned and showed their love to this nice couple. Mrs. Bortone wants to thank everybody for their love and assistance to her husband, most especially Miriam, Rossy, Richard and the whole staff and members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort: they are already looking forward to their visit Aruba next year.

The Aruba Tourism Authority also wants to send its gratitude to Mr. Pasquale and Mrs. Annette Bortone for their loyalty to Aruba and wishes Mr. Pasquale all the best with his recovery. □





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*Laura Viscomi*

She is from New Jersey, USA. It is her first time in Aruba. She is staying at the Radisson Beach Resort. What she loves most of Aruba is the weather and the beach.

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Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring Heanicke Wolfgang and Christina Schaltresident of Goehingen, Germany, as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10+ consecutive years.

The certificate was presented by Darline S. de Cuba, representing Aruba Tourism Authority, with Merlijn van Lelyveld, Sales and Marketing Manager, and Ann Maduro, Wedding Coordinator of Amsterdam Manor.

Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were the Fantastic Sunsets, Beautiful Blue Ocean, Friendly Aruban Hospitality and local Restaurants. □



# “Trading Snow To Sand” At The Aruba Marriott



**PALM BEACH** – From December 5 -8, 2012 five journalists from the US traded snow to sand at the Aruba Marriott Resort. Publications including the New York Resident, Curvy Magazine, Chicago Time out, Par-lour Magazine and Times Union visited Aruba to experience what the island has to offer. The five journalists and Diamond PR rep Lisa Schwartz started the trip off with a sunset dinner at Marriott's beachfront restaurant Simply Fish. On Thursday the group geared up for an adventurous jeep tour with De Palm Tours visiting Aruba's famous sights including the Natural Pool. In the late afternoon they set sail with Red Sail Sports catamaran followed by fine dining on Eagle Beach. Ready for another fun day in the sand, Friday morning the press tried the famous Dutch pancakes for breakfast at Linda's Pancake House. Yoga instructor Rachel Brathen then took the group out for a paddleboard yoga class in the Caribbean Sea. While some enjoyed spa treatments at Mandara Spa in the afternoon, others learned how to play beach tennis from Aruba's beach tennis pro's. In the evening Pinchos Grill & Bar hosted the press' farewell dinner. The Aruba Marriott thanks Pinchos, Linda's Pancake House, De Palm Tours, Red Sail Sports, Rachel Brathen, Vela and Aruba Beach Tennis for their cooperation and hospitality with the "Trade Snow to Sand" press trip. □

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# Aruba Bank's Year-End Campaign is dedicated to a good cause

*- The simple gesture of giving back will brighten up Christmas this year!*

**ORANJESTAD** – December 3rd, 2012. The excitement of the holidays is in the air in Aruba, and the celebratory atmosphere is almost palatable everywhere you go. In honor of the upcoming season-of-giving Aruba Bank made a decision to create a fund-raising drive dedicated to a good cause, supporting those in our community with lesser resources. The simple act of lending a helping hand to a less fortunate human being always results in a great sense of satisfaction, and lights up the season for the giver and receiver. Over the next days, up until December 17th, each branch of the Aruba Bank will have a special basket on display into which donations can be dropped. The donations of Awg 25, up to Awg 75 will be used to create Holiday Baskets for the needy. Each basket will have a value of Awg 150, and will contain various useful and seasonal items. Aruba Bank will be awarding the baskets to members of our community of lesser means, in collaboration with its clients. As the campaign winds to an end on December 17th, the bank pledges to double the amount collected. The Aruba Bank Holiday Campaign is a perfect opportunity to light up the holidays for our brothers and sisters, in the true spirit of Christmas. Aruba Bank is calling on the community to participate and show its solidarity and compas-



sion, its empathy and generosity, making the end of the year merrier and more prosperous for each and every member of our population. The entire community is invited to participate. □

# American Style Burgers Rule!!

The inspiration for a good American style hamburger comes right from the owners backyard grill. Aaron Walisever – before his 'retirement' – was known as "The King of Fireplaces & Grills" in New England. Moving to Aruba from Sharon, Massachusetts with his wife Rosie was a positive move all around – but their search for a good burger and fries didn't stretch far from home. It was this reason that Rosie & Aaron opened 5 Burgers Aruba! As the name implies, there are 5 specialty burgers offered including a mammoth Western Burger, a tasty melted Gouda Burger, a Farmers Burger complete with a fried egg. For the very hungry, a 3 patty Man Burger and to round out the specials – a zesty chicken breast with special sauce is also available.

Of course, hamburgers and cheeseburgers – small and regular sized are also on the menu. But the big surprise is the hand-cut daily – french fries – from select Idaho potatoes and hand-made onion rings! Cooking these in peanut oil leaves the pure potato flavor in the fry. A favorite way to enjoy fries is with vinegar! These complement any meal ordered at 5 Burgers! Burgers are pressed daily and are U.S.D.A. choice beef only and lightly seasoned with a special spice blend. They can even satisfy you if you desire a veggie burger. Toppings are encouraged and available at no additional charge – raw or grilled onions & mushrooms, lettuce, tomato, BBQ sauce and many more tasty items. Brand new items to the menu include a hand-made beef empanada and chicken bites. 5 Burgers Aruba is open from Noon to 10-ish daily. Delivery is available to your pool or hotel room! They are located behind Senor Frogs and across from the Radisson Hotel. Come by and enjoy a great burger experience. Rosie & Aaron are often on site – making sure that you are happy with your burger experience! Call 5 BURGERS ARUBA at 586-3904. □







## NFL Roundup



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning rolls out looking to pass against the Oakland Raiders during the second quarter of an NFL football game in Oakland, Calif., Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012. The Broncos won 26-13.

Associated Press

## Manning leads Broncos past Raiders 26-13

JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

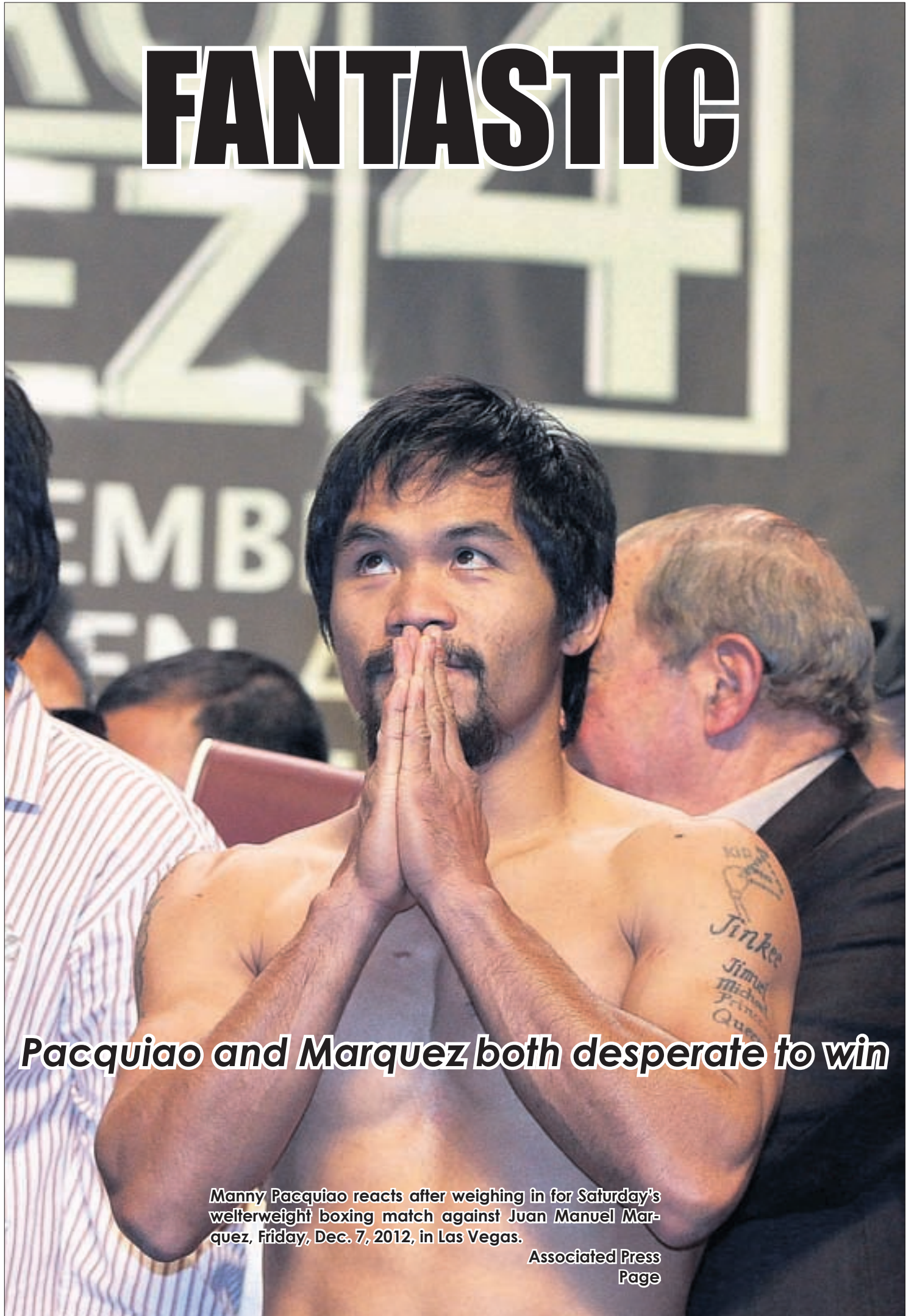
OAKLAND, California (AP)

— Denver quarterback Peyton Manning threw for 310 yards and had his 30th touchdown pass of the season on the game's opening drive as the Broncos rolled to their eighth straight victory, 26-13 over the Oakland Raiders on Thursday. Knowshon Moreno ran for 119 yards and a score on a career-high 32 carries, and Matt Prater kicked four field goals to help the Broncos (10-3) move half a game ahead of New England and Baltimore for the second-best record in the AFC. Denver visits Baltimore next week in a game that will help decide who gets a first-round playoff bye.

Oakland quarterback Carson Palmer threw one interception that thwarted a possible scoring chance for the Raiders (3-10) and lost a fumble that set up a touchdown for the Broncos as Oakland lost its sixth straight game.

Continued on Page 21

# FANTASTIC



## Pacquiao and Marquez both desperate to win

Manny Pacquiao reacts after weighing in for Saturday's welterweight boxing match against Juan Manuel Marquez, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press  
Page



# Love, Snedeker lead Franklin Templeton Shootout

**NAPLES, Florida (AP)** — U.S. Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III and Brandt Snedeker shot a 10-under 62 on Friday in modified alternate-shot play to take the first-round lead in the Franklin Templeton Shootout.

Love said everyone on the U.S. team wanted to play with Snedeker, a captain's pick, so he took that advice this week.

"That's why I was so excited to play with him, because I knew it would be fun and comfortable," Love said.

Love and Snedeker made 10 birdies for the lowest score in the modified alternate-shot format in the 24-year-old tournament's 12 years in Naples. They tied the third-lowest score overall.

"For the first time in my career, I got to feel like what it's like to be Davis Love, to hit from some of his tee shots, and hit from some



of his beautiful iron shots on these par 3s, and realize how the game is supposed to be played," Snedeker said.

Kenny Perry and Sean O'Hair were two strokes back on the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort's Tiburon Golf

Club. "In this format, both players have got to play well," O'Hair said.

Perry was thankful O'Hair saved him after a couple of poor chip shots.

"I didn't realize how long he was," Perry said. "I used to hit it kind of close to him,

and now I realize I need to be staying on the Champions Tour after how far he hits it. I was just stunned."

The teams of Bud Cauley and Rickie Fowler, Jason Dufner and Vijay Singh, and Charles Howell III and Rory Sabbatini were third at 6

under. Defending champions Keegan Bradley and Brendan Steele and 2010 winners Dustin Johnson and Ian Poulter, and Stewart Cink and Carl Pettersson followed at 5 under.

The 12 teams will play best ball on Saturday, then closed the Greg Norman-hosted event with a scramble format on Sunday.

Love made an 8-foot birdie putt on No. 1, and a 30-footer on No. 3.

"Momentum really jump-started," Snedeker said.

The two followed with three straight on Nos. 6-8, then added birdies on Nos. 10, 12, 14, 15 and 17.

"We both played well and both made a few putts, but we both drove it well," Love said. "I think that was the key."

We were picking which drive on every hole we wanted to use rather than one guy being out of the hole and struggling. □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean.

What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to



Winners of Infil, LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



5pm.  
**Catch your own dinner**  
A charter includes:  
captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).  
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This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95  
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\$400 - 1/2 day

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Tel: (297) 583 2515  
[www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)  
Opening hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm.  
Sunday Closed.



# Pacquiao and Marquez both desperate for win

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — The fact they're much bigger than when they first met eight years ago is undeniable. Both Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez have added bulk along with the pounds, and both have had to deal with those who suspect they didn't do it naturally. The fighters aren't the only thing that's grown. So have the purses and the attention as they meet Saturday night for the fourth — and presumably last — time in the rivalry that has served both fighters well. Marquez will try once again to do what he hasn't been able to do in 36 evenly contested rounds against Pacquiao — get a decision from the ringside scorecards. At the age of 39, it's a fight that may mean more to his legacy than his future career, which is why it's a fight he seems almost desperate to win. "All I ask is for the judges to be objective," Marquez said. "They need to really see what is happening in the ring instead of what they think might be happening in the ring." Pacquiao is not as desperate, but he needs a win just as badly. He barely escaped with a majority



Manny Pacquiao, left, and Juan Manuel Marquez pose for photos during the weigh-in for their welterweight fight, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012, in Las Vegas. Pacquiao and Marquez are scheduled to face off on Saturday in their fourth fight.

Associated Press

decision over Marquez last November — a result that drew loud boos from the pro-Marquez crowd — and lost a widely panned decision to Timothy Bradley his last time out. A loss to Marquez would not only confirm the whispers that he is slipping after 17 years as a pro, but perhaps derail for good any talk of a fight against Floyd Mayweather Jr. that would be boxing's richest ever.

"I have always been focused, but not like this fight," Pacquiao said. "There are no distractions in my mind. The family problems I had I don't have this time." Neither fighter holds a title as they meet in a welterweight fight that will make both even richer. Pacquiao is expected to make more than \$20 million by the time the pay-per-view receipts are totaled, while promoter Bob Arum said Marquez

could make as much as \$6 million. It's a far cry from 2004, when Pacquiao and Marquez could barely fill half the arena, and the money they made would barely pay for one of their luxury cars today. The fight, though, was plenty intriguing, with Pacquiao coming off a win over Marco Antonio Barrera that announced his entry into boxing's elite and Marquez having stopped his

last 11 opponents. It seemed a mismatch when Pacquiao knocked his fellow 125-pounder down three times in the first round and Marquez barely survived to hear the bell. But the Mexican champion began a comeback in round 3, dominating the late rounds on his way to a disputed draw that foreshadowed what was to come in the years ahead. All three fights — Pacquiao won the last two — were so close they could have gone either way. And had they gone the other way, boxing history may have changed. Pacquiao might not have got the fight with Oscar De La Hoya that catapulted him to stardom in 2008 just nine months after beating Marquez in a split decision in their second fight. Marquez, meanwhile, might have become more than just an opponent getting rich off the names of fighters who will be judged better than him. "My career maybe changed, and everything would be different," Marquez said. "But I feel great what happened in the past with Manny." A fourth fight between two world class fighters is almost unheard of in a day when top fighters rarely enter the ring more than twice a year. Almost as astonishing is that they were spread out over eight years and five weight classes, yet Saturday night's fight will still be a pay-per-view event that will likely draw more than 1 million buys (HBO \$59.95) across the country. If the old rules of boxing applied, Pacquiao would be fighting a rematch with Bradley for the welterweight title he lost in June in what most watching thought was one of the worst decisions in recent years. But Bradley doesn't sell pay-per-views and Marquez does, so he's on the sidelines as Pacquiao and the Mexican opponent he knows so well battle for riches instead of a crown. As is the norm in the sport, the fight needs some controversy to sell. □

## Cubs finalize \$9.5M, 2-year deal with Fujikawa

**CHICAGO (AP)** — After watching Hideo Nomo, Daisuke Matsuzaka and Ichiro Suzuki, Japan's Kyuji Fujikawa determined he's ready for the major leagues. "When I was still a student, I saw Nomo made it to the United States, and that was a big factor for me," Fujikawa said through a translator Friday after finalizing a \$9.5 million, two-year contract with the Chicago Cubs. "Also, Matsuzaka, who is the same age as I am, struggled a little bit, but his challenge really gave me the motivation to come over here, as well as Ichiro challenge to the major leagues, that motivated me to come over." The 32-year-old right-hand-

er had 220 saves in 12 seasons with the Hanshin Tigers of Japan's Central League. He played for Japan at the 2006 and 2009 World Baseball Classics and the 2008 Olympics. "Facing better-quality hitters was one of my motivations," Fujikawa said. He joins a team remaking its pitching staff. Without a World Series title since 1908, the Cubs went 61-101 this year for their first 100-loss season since 1966. "Rather than add a high quantity of buy-low guys and hope some quality emerged, we felt like we were in a position where we could add one or two quality bullpen pieces be-

cause we have some interesting arms to fill out the rest of the pen," Cubs president of baseball operations Theo Epstein said. "We were looking for one or two pieces where we felt good about the investment." Carlos Marmol, nearly traded to the Los Angeles Angels last month, remains the Cubs' closer as Fujikawa gets used to pitching for Chicago. "There's going to be an adjustment," Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer said. "We're crazy to think he's going to go right into the season and have no issues. Things will come up. We know that's a part of it." Fujikawa's strikeouts per

nine innings decreased from 13.5 in 2005 to 11.0 this year, when injuries limited his innings and strikeouts to his lows since 2004. "He's not a guy that tricks you. He really comes right after guys," Hoyer said. "Guys who rely too much on trickery can often be guys that the league figures out quickly. Our hope is that because he pitches with his fastball that he'll be able to pitch to a game plan and be able to establish himself." Fujikawa will wear No. 11 with the Cubs. "I was No. 22 with the Hanshin Tigers, but to have a better career than No. 22, I went younger with two ones," he said. □



## NBA Capsules

# Knicks dominate struggling Heat again, 112-92

**MIAMI (AP)** — Raymond Felton scored a season-high 27 points, and the New York Knicks connected on 18 3-pointers to more than offset the absence of Carmelo Anthony while topping Miami for the second time this season, beating the Heat 112-92 on Thursday night.

Steve Novak scored 18 points, J.R. Smith added 13 and Tyson Chandler scored 13 for the Knicks, who won their fifth straight and moved 1½ games clear of Miami for the best record in the Eastern Conference. The Knicks made eight 3-pointers in the third quarter alone, the most by any NBA team in any quarter so far this season.

Anthony sat out, one night after needing five stitches to close a cut on the middle finger of his left hand. LeBron James nearly picked up his second



**New York Knicks' J.R. Smith (8) battles Miami Heat's Udonis Haslem (40) for control of the loose ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012, in Miami.**

Associated Press

straight triple-double — 31 points, 10 rebounds, nine assists — in Miami's second straight loss. Dwyane Wade scored 13 points, Chris Bosh had 12 and Udonis Haslem

added 10 for the Heat, who fell to 8-1 at home. Rasheed Wallace scored 12 and Jason Kidd added 11 for the Knicks, who finished 18 for 44 from 3-point

range.

MAVERICKS 97, SUNS 94

PHOENIX (AP) — O.J. Mayo scored 23 points, including the go-ahead jumper with 35 seconds to go, and Dal-

las sent Phoenix to its fifth consecutive loss.

Brandon Wright and Darren Collison scored 16 apiece for Dallas. Wright's total was a season high. Chris Kaman added 15 points.

Markieff Morris had 15 points and a career-best 17 rebounds for the Suns, who rallied from 15 down in the third quarter to tie it in the final minute.

Kaman (sprained ankle) and Shawn Marion (strained right groin) left the game with injuries for Dallas, as did P.J. Tucker (sprained knee) and Jermaine O'Neal (eye) for Phoenix.

The game was played on "money-back guarantee night," when those who bought a ticket could get their money back if they didn't have a good time. The Suns said it was the first promotion of its kind in the NBA. □

## Aruhiba Cigars, Aruba's only hand rolled cigars!

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**ORANJESTAD-** Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort



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## NFL Preview

# Beltway Bowl: Key game for Ravens, Redskins

**BARRY WILNER**

**AP Pro Football Writer**

Less than an hour apart — without traffic of course, which never happens — the Baltimore Ravens and Washington Redskins should be natural rivals.

But ask them about their biggest rivals and they don't mention each other. For the Ravens, it's usually the Pittsburgh Steelers, who beat them last weekend. For the Redskins, it's often the New York Giants, an opponent they edged last Monday.

Coming off those emotional matchups, the Ravens and Redskins renew the Beltway Bowl, a game that happens only every four years, but on Sunday is of critical importance to both teams. "I don't know if you call it bragging rights or whatever," Ravens running back Ray Rice said. "We are two different (conferences), but it's good to get a win when you are that close apart. I always said it would be kind of crazy if we have a Ravens-Redskins Super Bowl. "It's not going to be any different than last week. It's

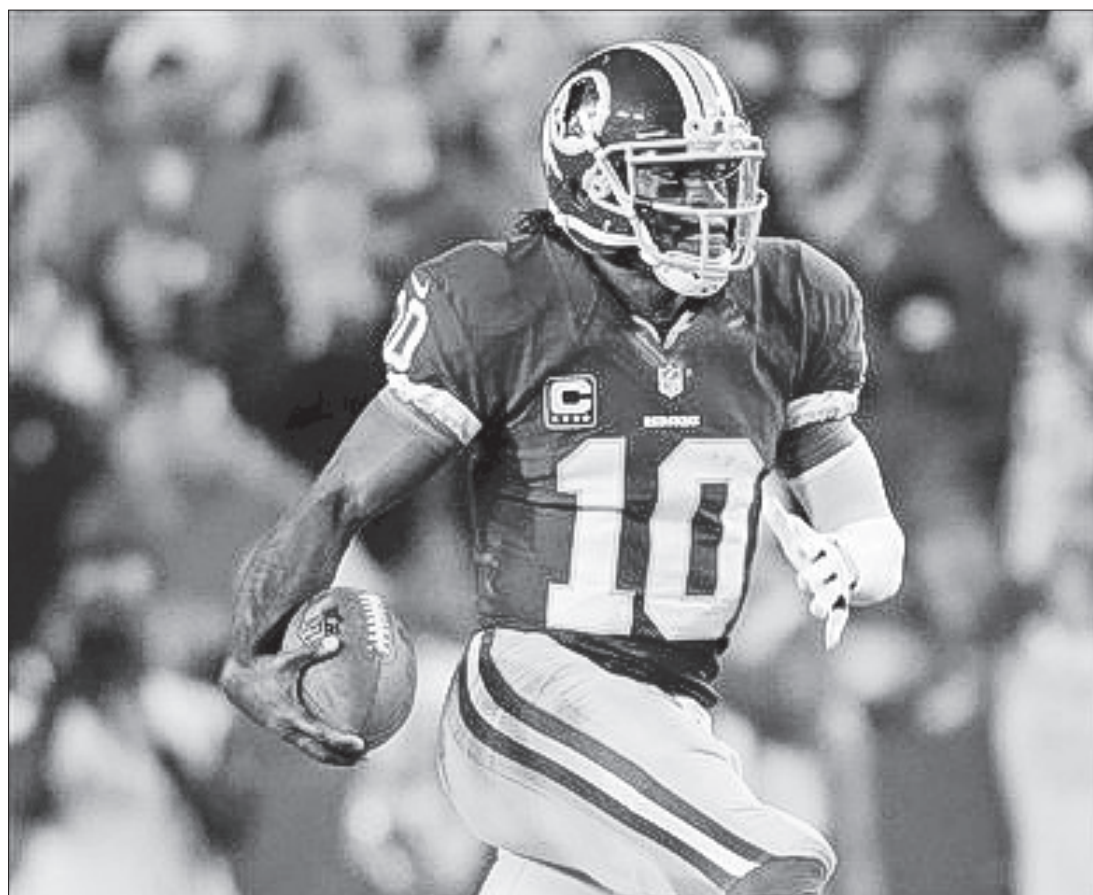
going to be a slugfest. It's going to be two teams that are going out there and fighting."

Baltimore leads the AFC North and will win it by beating Washington and seeing both Pittsburgh and Cincinnati lose. The Ravens grab a playoff berth with a win and one of those division rivals losing.

Washington has won three in a row to move within one game of the Giants atop the NFC East. Rookie sensation Robert Griffin III runs a hybrid offense that has been effective. When needed, RG3 has been a superb improviser.

"RG3, he can put the ball out there and throw it very far," Ravens defensive back Corey Graham said. "They do a lot of play-action reads. RG3, he can do everything. He's a fast guy, he can turn the edge, turn the corner on a lot of guys. He can throw the ball very good and is accurate with his passes also. When you've got a guy that can do pretty much everything, it's a tough challenge."

Meanwhile, the one-loss



Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III scrambles with the ball during the second half of an NFL football game against the New York Giants in Landover, Md., Monday, Dec. 3, 2012.

Associated Press

Houston Texans will find out a lot about whether they truly are a Super Bowl-level team on Monday when they travel to New England to play the Patriots, who look like a team that could

win the AFC again.

"We're in position, just like the Patriots are, to kind of control our own destiny moving forward," said Texans coach Gary Kubiak, whose team — unlike the

perennial contenders from New England — has not been in this kind of spotlight too often. "We know we'll have to play extremely well this weekend."

New England's offense has been unstoppable, with the Patriots outscoring opponents by 170 points. The 430 they have put up are 79 more than the Texans, who rank second in scoring.

So a light-up-the-scoreboard affair could be in order, even though Houston ranks sixth in defense.

"They certainly get after the football. They can rush the quarterback," Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said. "They do a great job stopping the run. They're taking the ball away; they get a lot of balls batted down at the line of scrimmage, interceptions, fumbles. They've won a lot of close games. They've won overtime games. They've come from behind. They've 6-0 on the road."

Also on Sunday, it's Miami at San Francisco, New Orleans at the New York Giants, Chicago at Minnesota, Detroit at Green Bay, Atlanta at Carolina. □

## Manning leads

Continued on Page 21

This is the team's longest skid since also losing six in a row in 2007.

The Raiders played the game under a pall as coach Dennis Allen's father, Grady, died earlier in the week from cardiac arrest. Allen was away from the team for two days but returned Wednesday and coached the game.

The Raiders players talked during the week about rallying around their first-year coach but came out flat against their fierce division rival and were swept in the season-series by the Broncos for the first time since 2006.

Oakland won the coin toss but decided to defer until the second half. The decision backfired as Manning converted three third

downs on a 68-yard drive that was capped by a 6-yard pass to Joel Dreessen. Prater added two field goals as Denver extended the lead to 13-0.

The momentum shifted after Phillip Adams' intercepted an underthrown pass from Manning to Matthew Willis in the end zone. Oakland responded with an 80-yard drive capped by a 6-yard screen pass to Darren McFadden, making it 13-7.

McFadden, returning from four games out with a sprained ankle, then had a 36-yard run on the first play from scrimmage, but the Raiders drive stalled in Denver territory after that and the Broncos took the game over.

Manning, who joined Brett Favre as the only quarterbacks in NFL history with 5,000 career completions, converted a third-and-11 with a perfectly placed



Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III scrambles with the ball during the second half of an NFL football game against the New York Giants in Landover, Md., Monday, Dec. 3, 2012.

Associated Press

22-yard pass to Demaryius Thomas. Manning followed that with a 29-yard completion to Eric Decker, but the drive stalled after a pass-interference call on Matt Giordano gave the Broncos a first down at the 1. Prater's 20-yard field goal made it 16-7.

Mike Goodson then made the ill-advised decision to

return a kick from 8 yards deep in the end zone, forcing Oakland to start a drive at the 8. Von Miller then produced a sack on third down, stripping the ball from Palmer. Mitch Unrein recovered at the 2 and Moreno scored two plays later to make it 23-7. Prater added another field goal later in the third quarter.



# Report: California stem cell agency needs overhaul

**ALICIA CHANG**  
**AP Science Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — California has transformed into a major player in stem cell research, but the taxpayer-funded institute responsible has “significant deficiencies” in how research dollars are distributed, experts said Thursday.

A report by the Institute of Medicine found too many members on the board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine represented schools that won funding and recommended a restructuring to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest.

California voters in 2004 approved Proposition 71, a state ballot initiative that created CIRM, at a time when there were federal restrictions on human embryonic stem cell research and such work was opposed by some on religious and moral grounds because embryos have to be destroyed to harvest the cells.

The agency was given broad power to distribute \$3 billion in bond proceeds to promising research. So far, it has distributed more than \$1 billion to some five

dozen universities that went mostly toward investments in new buildings and basic research.

The team of 13 experts that reviewed the stem-cell agency's operations did not judge the merits of

The approval process “has some significant deficiencies which need to be improved upon in order to improve CIRM's credibility and transparency,” said Harold Shapiro, an emeritus professor at Princeton Univer-

sity in stem cell biology,” the report said.

While the panel did not find any specific cases of conflict, it noted that the potential exists because of how the board is made up. CIRM is composed of 29 members, mostly from academia. They have the dual role of providing oversight and day-to-day management. While the structure may have worked when CIRM was first launched and shielded it from political meddling, change is needed going forward, experts said.

“They're not broken but they're bent,” said Sharon Terry, president of the non-profit Genetic Alliance who was part of the panel. “They need some correction.”

Among the recommendations: The board should remain at arm's length from the management team, focus on providing better oversight and should not decide what projects to fund. It also needs to be more diverse and include more representatives from industry and members with no stake in the grant-awarding process. Experts also favored the creation of

an outside scientific group to give advice and expertise.

Some of the suggested changes would require legislative approval, but the panel felt they were needed to erase concerns about possible conflicts of interest.

In a statement, CIRM board chairman Jonathan Thomas said the agency has not had a chance to digest the report. Once board members talk it over with the panel next week, they will decide “on how best to proceed so that we can respond in as thoughtful a manner to the recommendations” as the panel did, Thomas said.

The latest report echoed several others in the past by other groups, which also called for a new governance structure.

“CIRM has not responded in a meaningful way to many previous public interest suggestions or to independent reviews,” Marcy Darnovsky of the Center for Genetics and Society said in a statement. “We hope the agency will not continue that pattern.”

Since cutting the first check in 2006, CIRM now finds itself at a crossroads. The federal research limits that existed when it was created have been relaxed and it recently shifted focus from basic research to funding projects that can swiftly begin human trials. Experts felt this goal was unrealistic and urged the agency to have a more balanced approach.

At its current funding pace, CIRM is expected to earmark the last grants around 2017, but since most are multi-year awards, it will stay in business until around 2021. It's currently deciding its future for when the money runs out. The \$700,000 report was sponsored by CIRM — a customary practice for organizations seeking a review. The Institute of Medicine said sponsors have no influence on the fact-gathering process and are barred from reviewing drafts or weighing in on the report before publication. □



**Researcher Terry Storm works in a stem cell research lab at the Lorry I. Lokey Stem Cell Research Building on the Stanford University campus in Palo Alto, Calif. A report by the Institute of Medicine released Thursday Dec. 6, 2012 said California's stem cell agency has done a good job of supporting research but said improvements are needed.**

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

individual studies because that was outside the scope of the report and it would have been too time-consuming and costly. But they raised serious questions about how grants were allotted.

sity who chaired the report. In a few short years, CIRM got off the ground and funneled research money with an eye toward stem cell therapies, turning the state into “an international hub of research and develop-

## First medical marijuana dispensary opens in New Jersey

**ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS**  
**© 2012 New York Times**

**MONTCLAIR, N.J.** — They skulked in and out like criminals, shoulders hunched, heads down, declining to comment. It was the opening of New Jersey's first and so far only medical marijuana dispensary, in downtown Montclair, on Thursday, nearly three years after the law allowing such enterprises was passed. The opening had been delayed by political battles over whether it would lead to the de facto legalization of marijuana.

Patronizing the dispensary was perfectly legal, provided a doctor's prescription for a list of specified medical conditions was presented, yet the pioneering visitors — it was not clear if they were patients — seemed none too eager to declare themselves, perhaps taken aback by the horde of news reporters there to greet them. One visitor, who would give only a first name, Ed, said he had been in pain since being shocked on the job for an electric company in 2003.

Not for them the whimsicality of the Magical Mystery Tour and other happy drug allusions of the '60s. The

opening was all business, down to the pious name, the Greenleaf Compassion Center. Visits were by appointment only, and a uniformed security guard stood outside the front door at 395 Bloomfield Ave., checking identifications before letting anyone into the black glass storefront, which made it all but impossible to see inside.

The operators of the dispensary did step out for a cigarette break, strictly tobacco.

The chief executive, Joseph Stevens, 40, said he had been a funeral director in Nutley for 12 years, where he was inspired to go into his current business by seeing firsthand the suffering of families whose relatives had died of painful diseases.

“It's a comforting experience,” Stevens said, describing how patients had reacted to the dispensary. “They've lived in the shadows for so many years.” He said this was a place where they could get the therapy they needed yet “feel safe, have no fear of prosecution, and go home.”

His business partner, Julio Valentin Jr., 43, the chief operating officer, is a former Newark police officer who had

run a Montclair establishment, the Cafe Eclectic, known for its funky ambience, up the street for 15 years.

Valentin said the town had been very welcoming, and stressed that the dispensary was “not going to be your typical head shop or mom-and-pop shop. This is a professional program.” He had designed the interior decor, which he described as “beautiful,” with “earth tones, a soothing atmosphere, leather couches, like an upscale doctor's office.”

The partners said they had been friends for 32 years, and Stevens said they were growing the marijuana in a “very clean, very secure” warehouse. Asked if they had ever personally smoked their product, Stevens said, “No, I don't. I just don't like it,” but quickly added that if he were sick, that would be a different story.

Valentin gave a theatrical shrug and a sheepish smile.

They said they received several patients Thursday and dispense between a half ounce and two ounces of marijuana to each of them. Two inspectors from the state Health Department also paid a monitoring visit. □



# Black boxes in cars raise privacy concerns

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Many motorists do not know it, but it is likely that every time they get behind the wheel, there is a snitch along for the ride.

In the next few days, the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is expected to propose long-delayed regulations requiring auto manufacturers to include event data recorders — better known as “black boxes” — in all new cars and light trucks. But the agency is behind the curve. Automakers have been quietly tucking the devices, which automatically record the actions of drivers and the responses of their vehicles in a continuous information loop, into most new cars for years.

When a car is involved in a crash or when its airbags deploy, inputs from the vehicle's sensors during the 5 to 10 seconds before im-

pact are automatically preserved. That's usually enough to record things like how fast the car was traveling and whether the driver applied the brake, was steering erratically or had a seat belt on.

The idea is to gather information that can help investigators determine the cause of accidents and lead to safer vehicles. But privacy advocates say government regulators and automakers are spreading an intrusive technology without first putting in place policies to prevent misuse of the information collected.

Data collected by the recorders is increasingly showing up in lawsuits, criminal cases and high-profile accidents. Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray initially said that he wasn't speeding and that he was wearing his seat belt when he crashed a government-owned car last year. But



**This Nov. 2, 2011 file photo shows the state-owned Ford driven by Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Murray sitting on a flatbed truck at the Massachusetts State Police barracks in Holden, Mass. Many motorists don't know it, but it's likely that every time they get behind the wheel there's a snitch along for the ride.**

Associated Press

the Ford Crown Victoria's data recorder told a different story: It showed the car was traveling more than 100 mph (161kph) and Murray wasn't belted in.

In 2007, then-New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine was seri-

ously injured in the crash of an SUV driven by a state trooper. Corzine was a passenger.

The SUV's recorder showed the vehicle was traveling 91 mph (146 kph) on a parkway where the speed limit

was 65 mph (104kph), and Corzine didn't have his seat belt on.

There is no opt-out. It's extremely difficult for car owners to disable the recorders.

Although some vehicle models have had recorders since the early 1990s, a federal requirement that automakers disclose their existence in owner's manuals did not go into effect until three months ago. Automakers who voluntarily put recorders in vehicles are also now required to gather a minimum of 15 types of data.

Besides the upcoming proposal to put recorders in all new vehicles, the traffic safety administration is also considering expanding the data requirement to include as many as 30 additional types of data such as whether the vehicle's electronic stability control was engaged, the driver's seat position or whether the front-seat passenger was belted in. Some manufacturers already are collecting the information. Engineers have identified more than 80 data points that might be useful.

Despite privacy complaints, the traffic safety administration so far hasn't put any limits on how the information can be used. About a dozen states have some law regarding data recorders, but the rest do not. □

## Cisco grabs for 'No. 1 IT company' crown

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Cisco Systems Inc. isn't content to be the world's largest maker of computer networking gear. It says it wants to become the “No. 1” supplier of information technology to big businesses by broadening its offerings of services and software.

But when Cisco says “No. 1 IT company,” it doesn't mean that it's going to be the biggest-selling company. That goal is out of reach, as IBM Corp.'s revenue is twice that of Cisco. Rather, Cisco CEO John Chambers says he wants the company to loom largest in the minds of its customers and to be the one setting the pace in the industry. Being No. 1, he says, means having the best customer satisfaction and the best profit margins for products.

The strategy statement, articulated Friday at a presentation for Wall Street analysts, follows some lean years that have seen Cisco retrench from even broad-

er goals, which included trying to establish itself as a consumer brand and buying a maker of camcorders. The new direction will be supported by a global advertising campaign with the slogan “Tomorrow starts here.” The ad campaign starts Monday.

“The play sounds a lot like the IBM story,” Raymond James analyst Simon Leopold said. After the maker of mainframe computers struggled in the 1980s with the rise of cheap microprocessors and rapid changes in the industry, IBM successfully transformed itself into a company that combined consulting services, software and hardware.

For Cisco, the new playbook comes as Chambers, who is 63 and one of the longest-serving CEOs in Silicon Valley, is nearing retirement and looking to hand over to a successor in two to four years. There are two chief candidates, who appeared with Chambers on Friday: Rob Lloyd, the head of sales and product development, and Gary Moore,



**This Wednesday, May 9, 2012, file photo, shows an exterior view of Cisco headquarters in Santa Clara, Calif.**

Associated Press

the chief operating officer. “Both Rob and I are prepared to be the CEO,” Moore said, adding that whoever wasn't chosen would accept the board's decision and remain with the company.

Chambers told analysts that Cisco pulls in about \$6 billion from software per year and plans to double that in the next three to five years. That's not a figure the company usually breaks out, as most of its software is deeply integrated into hardware such as routers and switches, which shunt

data through networks. Analysts at the meeting were unsure how to incorporate the figure into their models, and the company didn't give a lot of specifics on how it hoped to achieve that.

Analysts also questioned how Cisco hopes to be the top player when it doesn't sell the massive storage arrays that big companies need for their data. Chambers said Cisco will keep partnering with companies that do sell storage products, including IBM and EMC Corp. □



# Apple holds back S&P, Nasdaq; Dow ends higher

**CHRISTINA REXRODE**

**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Apple spoiled the stock market's party on Friday.

Stocks shot higher in the early morning, after the government reported that the U.S. added jobs in November. But Apple, which has been flailing in recent weeks as investors wonder how long its momentum can continue, dragged down the indexes that it's part of.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which doesn't include Apple, rose. The Standard & Poor's 500 and Nasdaq, which do, were less impressive. The S&P rose by a smaller amount, and the Nasdaq fell.

At the end of the day, the Dow was up 81.09 points, or 0.6 percent, to 13,155.13. The S&P 500, where Apple's weight is 4 percent, was up but by a smaller proportion, rising 4.13 points to 1,418.07. The Nasdaq composite index, where Apple accounts for a hefty 12 percent, fell 11.23 to 2,978.04. The headline numbers from the jobs report sent the market higher in early trading. The Labor Department said the U.S. added 146,000 jobs last month, more than

economists had expected. The unemployment rate fell to 7.7 percent from 7.9 percent, the lowest in nearly four years.

The overall report, however, painted a more restrained view of the economy.

"If you delve into that report a little more, there are some disturbing issues," said Brian Lund, who is

Department revised previously released jobs numbers downward, saying that employers added 49,000 fewer jobs in October and September than initially estimated.

Lund also wasn't so sure about the government's statement that Hurricane Sandy "did not substantively impact" the unemployment

people to survive? It's not until later that they start laying off."

Nicholas Colas, chief market strategist for ConvergeX in New York, was similarly unimpressed by the jobs numbers. In a note to clients, he said U.S. unemployment seems to be more consistent with "an ongoing recession than expansion."

In the recession of the early 1990s and its aftermath, the highest rate of unemployment was 7.8 percent. In the recession of the early 2000s and its aftermath, the unemployment rate never got above 6.3 percent.

This time has been harsher. In late 2009, shortly after the recession officially ended, the unemployment rate peaked at 10 percent. For two years after that, it stayed above 9 percent. Apple fell \$13.99 to \$533.25, or 2.6 percent. That's part of a longer trend: Apple's stock has plunged nearly 24 percent since the iPhone 5 went on sale Sept. 21. Investors are wondering how long the company can keep the momentum going with its popular iPhone and iPad devices. □



The Apple logo is shown on a stock ticker at the Nasdaq MarketSite, in New York. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

based in Los Angeles as executive vice president and co-founder of the online brokerage Ditto Trade.

Among them: The unemployment rate fell largely because discouraged unemployed workers stopped looking for work, which meant they were no longer counted among the unemployed. Also, the Labor

numbers. He expected Sandy's detrimental effects to show up in jobs reports over the next couple of months, as businesses figure out their post-storm plans.

"If you have Sandy, you don't automatically lose your job," Lund said. "Businesses take time to say, 'Oh, what's going on, can we go forward, do we need to cut

# US consumer borrowing rises to record \$2.75T

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Americans swiped their credit cards more often in October and borrowed more to attend school and buy cars. The increases drove U.S. consumer debt to an all-time high.

The Federal Reserve said Friday that consumers increased their borrowing by \$14.2 billion in October from September. Total borrowing rose to a record \$2.75 trillion.

Borrowing in the category that covers autos and student loans increased by \$10.8 billion. Borrowing on credit cards rose by \$3.4 billion, only the second monthly increase in the past five months.

The strong rise in borrowing came in a month when American cut back on

consumer spending, reflecting in part disruptions from Superstorm Sandy.

Many consumers may also have scaled back because of fears about the "fiscal cliff." That's the name for automatic tax increases and spending cuts that will take effect in January if

Congress and the Obama administration fail to strike a budget deal by then.

Consumer spending drives roughly 70 percent of economic activity.

Economists think that it could bounce back in November. But the underlying trend remains weak because with

unemployment remaining high, households don't have the incomes to spend. Many consumers have been reluctant to build up credit card debt, which typically carries steeper interest rates than other loans. Credit card usage has fallen sharply since the 2008 credit crisis. Four years ago, Americans had \$1.03 trillion in credit card debt, an all-time high. In October, that figure was 17 percent lower. During the same period, student loan debt has increased dramatically. The category that includes auto and student loans is 22 percent higher than in July 2008. That reflects in part the fact that many Americans who have lost jobs decided to go back to school to get training for new careers. □



A shopper checks winter jackets in a Nordstrom rack in Chicago. According to the Federal Reserve, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012, Americans swiped their credit cards more often in October and borrowed more to attend school and buy cars. The increases drove U.S. consumer debt to an all-time high. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

## STREET BRIEFS

### AIG in talks to sell bulk of ILFC to Chinese firm

**NEW YORK (AP)** — AIG says it is in talks with a Chinese investor group to sell a controlling stake in its jet leasing business. American International Group Inc. said Friday that the talks to sell a 90 percent stake in its International Lease Finance Corp. business are with a group led by New China Trust Co. Ltd., New China Life Insurance Co. Ltd., P3 Investments Ltd. and China Aviation Industrial Fund. AIG has said its jet leasing business is a non-core asset. It filed plans last year to take it public. The New York-based insurer has been selling off subsidiaries to raise money to pay back its \$182 billion bailout from the government during the economic meltdown. AIG provided no other details on a potential sale. Shares of AIG rose nearly 2 percent. □

### Fitch cuts HSBC Holdings rating

**LONDON (AP)** — Fitch Ratings has cut its debt rating on HSBC Holdings PLC, saying the risks attached to its expansion into higher-risk markets such as China is no longer sufficiently mitigated. The credit ratings agency lowered HSBC's long-term issuer default rating to AA- from AA, but revised up its outlook on Europe's biggest bank from negative to stable. Fitch added that HSBC's increasing costs of managing its diverse operations — from legal fees to compliance and governance expenses — will outweigh any previous benefits from the group's business and geographic diversification. Last month, HSBC said it has set aside a further \$1.15 billion to cover potential U.S. fines for failing to stop money-laundering in its Mexican unit and to compensate U.K. customers for mis-selling payment protection insurance. □





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## US economy adds 146K jobs, rate falls to 7.7%

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. economy added 146,000 jobs in November and the unemployment rate fell to 7.7 percent, the lowest since December 2008. The drop, however, was largely due to the fact that more discouraged Americans stopped looking for work and weren't counted as unemployed. The Labor Department's report Friday offered a mixed picture of the economy. Hiring remained steady during Superstorm Sandy and in the face of looming tax increases. But the government said employers added 49,000 fewer jobs in October and September than it initially estimated. And economists noted that the unemployment rate would have risen if more people hadn't stopped looking for work. Once people without jobs stop looking for one, they're no longer counted as unemployed.

The report "is something of a mixed bag but, on balance, it's a positive," said Paul Ashworth, an econo-

mist at Capital Economics. The job growth suggests that most employers aren't yet delaying hiring because of the "fiscal cliff." That's the combination of sharp tax increases and spending cuts set to take effect next year unless the White House and Congress reach a budget deal before then.

There is "no obvious impact from the looming fiscal cliff yet," Ashworth added, "but it could still have a greater effect on December's figures."

Sandy's effect on the economic figures was much smaller many analysts had predicted. The government noted that as long as employees worked at least one day during a pay period — two weeks for most people — its survey would have counted them as employed.

Still, there were signs that the storm disrupted economic activity. Construction employment dropped 20,000. And weather prevented 369,000 people from getting to work — the most for any month in nearly two years. These

workers were still counted as employed. All told, 12 million Americans were unemployed in November, about 230,000 fewer than the previous month. That's still many more than the 7.6 million who were out of work when the recession of-

who were working part time in November but wanted full-time work declined. And a measure of discouraged workers — those who wanted a job but hadn't searched for one in the past month — rose slightly. Those two groups, plus the

in October. It's the lowest such rate since January 2009.

Since July, the economy has added an average of 158,000 jobs a month. That's a modest pickup from 146,000 average in the first six months of the year. In November, retailers added 53,000 positions. Temporary help companies added 18,000 and education and health care also gained 18,000.

Auto manufacturers added nearly 10,000 jobs.

Still, overall manufacturing jobs fell 7,000. That was pushed down by a loss of 12,000 jobs in food manufacturing that likely reflects the layoff of workers at Hostess. Sandy forced restaurants, retailers and other businesses to close in late October and early November in 24 states, particularly in the Northeast. Ashworth noted that hiring by companies was actually better in October than the government first thought. The overall job figures were revised lower that month because governments cut about 35,000 more jobs than first estimated. □



A help wanted sign is posted on the front window of a clothing boutique in Los Angeles Friday, Dec. 7, 2012. The U.S. economy added a solid 146,000 jobs in November and the unemployment rate fell to 7.7 percent, the lowest since December 2008, the Labor Department announced Friday.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

officially began in December 2007. Investors appeared pleased with the report. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 31 points by midday Friday.

The number of Americans

12 million unemployed, make up a broader measure that the government calls "underemployment." The underemployment rate fell to 14.4 percent in November from 14.6 percent

## US fines Goldman \$1.5 million in case of ex-trader

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Goldman Sachs & Co. is paying \$1.5 million to settle civil charges that it failed to properly supervise a former trader who cost the firm more than \$118 million.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission announced the action Friday. The CFTC says Goldman also agreed to make changes in its supervision procedures for futures trading.

The CFTC last month filed civil fraud charges against the former trader, Matthew

Marshall Taylor.

Regulators said he failed to disclose an \$8.3 billion position on a futures contract that came back to hurt Goldman in December

2007.

The agency is seeking unspecified penalties against Taylor.

Taylor's trading didn't affect customer funds, Gold-

man spokesman Michael DuVally said Friday.

The firm discovered his activity on Dec. 14, 2007.

Taylor eventually admitted misconduct and was termi-

nated, DuVally said.

"Since these events, we have enhanced our (internal) controls," DuVally said.

"We're pleased to have settled this matter." □

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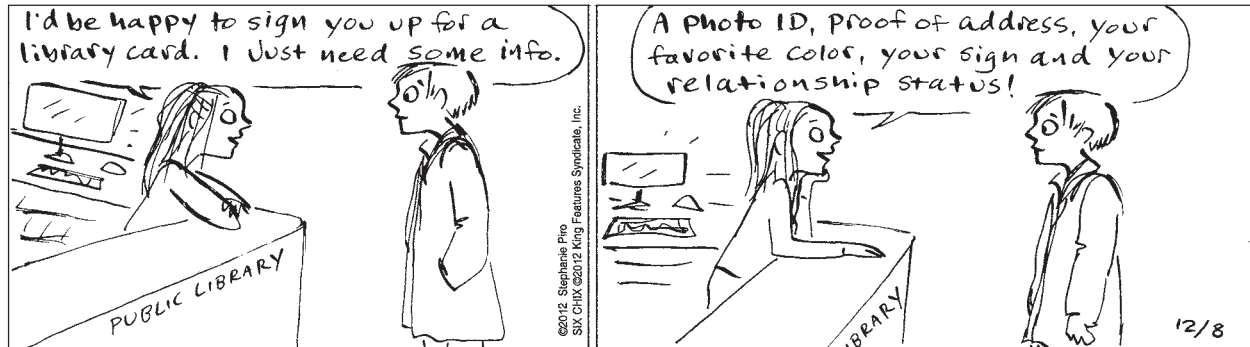
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	1			3	4		
8			7		5		
4				6			9
7			1				4
		8		5			3
		6	2			7	
2			9				5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 12/08

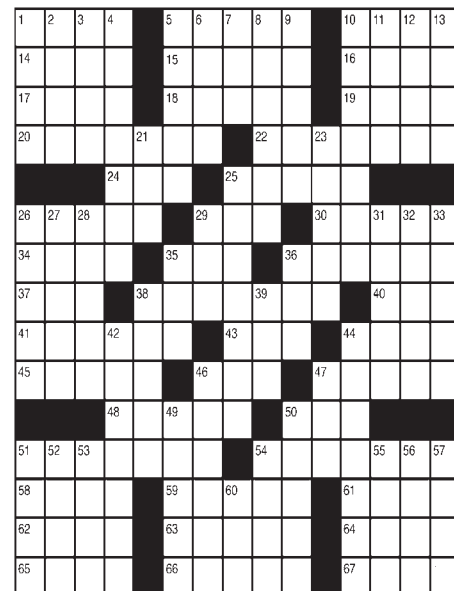
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	1	3	8	6	9	7	5	4
7	4	8	2	1	5	9	3	6
9	6	5	7	3	4	1	8	2
3	9	1	5	4	2	8	6	7
5	7	6	3	8	1	4	2	9
4	8	2	9	7	6	3	1	5
1	5	4	6	9	3	2	7	8
8	2	9	1	5	7	6	4	3
6	3	7	4	2	8	5	9	1

ACROSS

- 1 Complain
- 5 Lopsided
- 10 Fundamentals
- 14 Tiny land in the sea
- 15 Lowest point
- 16 Swat
- 17 Long-running quarrel
- 18 Hand protector
- 19 Wild feline
- 20 Haphazard; unpredictable
- 22 Spookiest
- 24 Even score
- 25 Car racer Al
- 26 Mexican Indian
- 29 Mornings, for short
- 30 Chooses
- 34 Deuce or joker
- 35 Afternoon rest
- 36 Old & forgetful
- 37 Hurry
- 38 In name only
- 40 Pass away
- 41 Rubber end of a pencil
- 43 Traitor
- 44 Give to a borrower
- 45 Arrange
- 46 Look at
- 47 Attracts; tempts
- 48 \_\_\_ about; praises wildly
- 50 1/60 of a min.
- 51 Actor \_\_\_ Sheen
- 54 Spotted cat
- 58 Part of the ear
- 59 Largest city in Nebraska
- 61 American Beauty, e.g.
- 62 Region
- 63 Allowed by law
- 64 Fastener that gets hammered
- 65 Shopper's destination
- 66 Skillful
- 67 Mild cheese



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/8/12

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	A	N	D	D	O	S	E	S	R	O	L	E
O	V	E	R	O	P	E	R	A	E	V	I	L
D	I	E	S	N	E	E	R	D	O	W	E	L
A	D	D	B	O	N	D	P	A	N	T	S	
L	A	I	R	S	F	I	R					
E	V	E	N	T	S	W	A	N	D	E	R	
M	A	S	T	S	A	B	A	T	E	L	E	G
M	U	S	E	S	K	A	T	E	L	E	A	N
A	L	L	F	L	I	N	T	G	A	M	M	A
T	Y	C	O	O	N	D	E	T	E	S	T	
H	I	P			W	O	M	E	N			
I	D	L	E	S	L	I	D	S	T	I	C	
S	A	U	N	T	E	R	I	N	G	W	A	C
L	I	M	E	L	A	N	C	E	I	R	O	N
E	S	P	I		I	N	T	E	R	T	Y	N

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DOWN

- 1 Small flute
- 2 \_\_\_-friendly; easy to learn

- 3 Run one's words together
- 4 Gave Valium to
- 5 Ms. Dickinson
- 6 Powder
- 7 Wedding words
- 8 \_\_\_ up; energizes
- 9 Pines & palms
- 10 Common pain pill
- 11 Melancholy
- 12 Rotating pieces
- 13 Argument
- 21 Facial twitch
- 23 Fight off
- 25 Baseball officials
- 26 Muscle cramps
- 27 African nation
- 28 "Trick or \_\_\_!"
- 29 Mine's initials
- 31 Apple drink
- 32 Actor Kevin
- 33 Kernels
- 35 Conjunction
- 36 Made a lap
- 38 Katmandu's nation
- 39 Scottish "no"
- 42 Dreamlike
- 44 Swiss city
- 46 Appeared
- 47 Jamie \_\_\_ Curtis
- 49 Stringed instrument
- 50 "Thou \_\_\_ not kill"
- 51 Boston \_\_\_ chowder
- 52 Israeli dance
- 53 Cain's brother
- 54 Fellow
- 55 Frog's cousin
- 56 Iraq's continent
- 57 Steerer's place
- 60 Get older



# Congrats, NY Jets: you doused nationwide interest in Tebow!

Dave George

© 2012 Cox Newspapers  
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. --

The visible-from-space Tim Tebow volcano of popular fascination hasn't merely been contained in his brief time with the New York Jets. It has been doused, plugged and very nearly bulldozed right off the map. For this to happen in the space of just one season is one of the great upsets in modern sports history. For it to happen in the tabloid playground of New York goes against the very laws of nature, both human and corporate.

Getting a start Sunday in Jacksonville, his hometown, might have set a spark to the old Tebow flames, but that's not going to happen.

Rex Ryan is going back to Mark Sanchez, who according to the Jets coach, gives the team the best chance to win even though he's coming off a three-interception disaster and, by most accounts, stinks on ice.

If the Jets won't play Tebow, if he's permanently stuck in the off-Broadway role of clipboard-carrying extra, there just aren't that many avenues remaining to push him back into the core of Big Apple conversation.

He could steal Derek Jeter's girlfriend, whoever that happens to be this week.

He could safely land a troubled team charter in the Hudson River.

He could send the New York Stock Exchange soaring by ringing open a session and then standing there above the floor all day long, smiling and waving at traders and beaming down positive thoughts.

As dramatic as any of those developments might be, however, there is no connection to Tebow's football future, which is fizzling at such an alarming rate that there may be no building on his measly season total of seven pass attempts.

The Jets couldn't have done more to kill Tebow's

reputation as a viable offensive threat if they had deliberately set out to do so. That, of course, is their problem, but what would the attendance-challenged Jaguars do right now for the slightest promise that Tebow might play in front of his old Florida Gator fans?

If he's going to be inactive for a second straight game because of two broken

ribs supposedly in need of more healing time, well, Jacksonville might just as well be playing Kansas City on Sunday, which means the stadium might be better off scheduling a tractor pull.

No matter what you think of the former Heisman Trophy winner's skills as a quarterback, there is no logic in letting his magnetic appeal die on the vine. □

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**KARL RITTER**

**Associated Press**

The two-week U.N. conference in Doha was never meant to yield a global climate pact to curb emissions of greenhouse gases — that has been put off until 2015.

But negotiators struggled to agree even on more modest issues, including how to scale up money to help poor countries cope with global warming, and finalizing the extension of an existing treaty that only covers about 15 percent of global emissions.

The U.S. and other developed countries rejected a draft agreement put on the table Friday. Several developing countries also said they couldn't accept the wording of some paragraphs, highlighting

the deep divide that has haunted the talks since they first started two decades ago.

One of the key disagreements was over money. Poor countries want firm commitments from rich nations to scale up climate aid for them to \$100 billion annually by 2020, a general pledge that was made three years ago.

But rich nations are unwilling to commit to specific targets now, citing world financial turmoil and pressure on their budgets.

"We underscore the need for a goal for 2013-2015 in order to avoid a gap and ensure sufficient financial support for developing countries," Chinese delegate Su Wei told the conference. The financing issue has overshadowed the talks since they started last week in Qatar, the first Middle Eastern country to host the slow-moving annual negotiations aimed at crafting a global response to climate change.

Rich nations pledged in 2009 to deliver long-term financing to help poor nations switch to clean energy and adapt to rising sea levels and other impacts of global warming. They offered \$10 billion a year in 2010-2012 in "fast-start"



Local and international activists march inside a conferences center to demand urgent action to address climate change at the U.N. climate talks in Doha, Qatar, Friday, Dec.7, 2012. A dispute over money clouded U.N. climate talks Friday, as rich and poor countries sparred over funds meant to help the developing world cover the rising costs of mitigating global warming and adapting to it.

**Associated Press**

financing, pledging that the amount would be increased to \$100 billion in 2020.

But they didn't say how.

A draft text early Friday urged developed countries "to make firm commitments to provide scaled up climate finance beyond 2012" but didn't include any midterm targets.

"It's troubling that some developing countries, for example the U.S., are very skeptical toward doing anything beyond saying 'we have made a promise of \$100 billion by 2020,'" said Norwegian Environment Minister Baard Sol-

hjell, Norway, largely shielded from Europe's financial crisis because of its offshore oil and gas, favors language that clearly shows that aid figures will gradually go up until 2020.

Gambia delegate Pa Ousman Jarju, representing the least developed countries, said they were still insisting on a midterm financing target but "we have not reached a stage where we would walk out."

Negotiators were also trying to finalize an agreement to formally extend the Kyoto Protocol, an emissions reduction pact for rich countries that expires at the end of this year. One of the sticking points was whether

to allow countries to carry over surplus emissions allowances into the next phase. The U.S. never joined Kyoto while Japan, New Zealand, Canada and Russia don't want to be part of the extension, meaning it would only cover about 15 percent of the world's emissions of greenhouse gases. Governments have set a deadline of 2015 to agree on a wider deal that would include both developed and developing countries, which now produce a majority of the world's emissions.

The goal of the U.N. talks is to keep temperatures from rising more than 2 C (3.6 F), compared to preindustrial times. Temperatures have already risen about 0.8 C (1.4 F) above that level, according to the latest report by the U.N.'s top climate body. A recent projection by the World Bank showed temperatures are on track to rise by up to 4 C (7.2 F) by the year 2100.

"There is a huge lag between the international policy response and what science is telling us," U.N. climate chief Christiana Figueres told The Associated Press. "We know that science tends to underestimate the impacts of climate, and so if anything, that gap continues to grow." □

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# 'Shaq' looking to become the Pat Riley of comedy

JOHN CARUCCI  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — With his latest endeavor, Shaquille O'Neal now considers himself the "Pat Riley of comedy."

The four-time NBA champion likens himself to the famed basketball coach with his ability to pick the right comedians for his "All Star Comedy Jam."

"Humor is a big way to relieve stress, so me being a great leader and being an expert at organizational leadership, I could pick a team, I could pick a street ball team, I could pick a kickball team, I definitely could pick comedians," O'Neal said.

O'Neal said he wanted provide a forum for comics similar to Russell Simmons' "Def Comedy Jam." He was a big fan of the HBO series that launched the careers of Dave Chapelle, Martin Lawrence, Bernie Mac, Chris Tucker

and others.

But O'Neal said his revue isn't just about black comedy.

"I am not biased. Even though I'm African-American, even though I'm urban, I don't just like urban comedy," O'Neal said. "The guy Jeff Foxworthy — that's some of the best comedy ever — 'You know you're a redneck.' I can relate to that because I went to school in Louisiana and Texas."

The "All Star Comedy Jam" has a lineup that has featured Finesse Mitchell and Gary Owen. The tour ends on New Year's Eve in Atlanta.

One of the comedians O'Neal is highlighting on the tour is the Bronx-born Capone.

"This guy right now here is the LeBron (James). He's the closer," O'Neal said proudly as he patted the comedian on the back.

The drug dealer-turned-

comedian says he always had the gift.

"I was somebody who was notorious for pretty much always saying what I felt like saying and I grew a reputation for that," Capone said. But he says that being funny wasn't enough. "I made the transformation from not wanting to be a drug dealer anymore and turning to comedy."

After struggling for years on the circuit, Capone finally got his break.

"For somebody like Shaq to recognize that is really big," Capone said.

Though his passion is comedy, O'Neal is still involved in basketball — as an NBA analyst on TNT. O'Neal isn't shy to speak his mind: Before the season started, he said Los Angeles Lakers' newly acquired center Dwight Howard wasn't the game's most dominant at his position.

O'Neal caught a lot of flak for the comment, but



This Nov. 17, 2011 file photo shows Shaquille O'Neal at the "Pencils Of Promise" inaugural gala in New York.

Associated Press

stands by what he said.

"He's taking it personal, but I want him to get mad so he can dominate," O'Neal said of Howard. "You push your employees' buttons and either they go to the next level or they decline." While brazen and often funny on television, don't expect O'Neal to get up on a comedy stage any-

time soon.

"I know my limits. In my bathroom I'm funny as hell. I can give you seven, eight minutes straight. That's different from going onstage and looking at the guy in the front row and he's looking at you like this," he said, making a blank stare. "So that's always been my fear." □

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## Rolling Stones added to Sandy benefit concert



In this Nov. 25, 2012 file photo, Mick Jagger, center, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood, left, and Charlie Watts, right, of The Rolling Stones perform at the O2 arena in east London.

Associated Press

DAVID BAUDER

AP Entertainment Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Rolling Stones have been added to the list of artists performing at the Superstorm Sandy benefit concert next week in New York City. Next Wednesday's bill had already included Paul McCartney, Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band, The Who, Alicia Keys, Kanye West and others.

Producers of the show said Friday they had already raised \$30 million that will

be distributed to storm victims in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut through the Robin Hood Foundation. The show is sold out. Producers also said they had no estimate of how many tickets had been bought by ticket brokers. They urged fans not to buy scalped tickets because the money won't go to storm relief.

The concert is dubbed "12-12-12." It will be held at Madison Square Garden. □

## Pres. Obama to attend PSY performance despite protests

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama will attend a charity concert where PSY is scheduled to perform after reports that the South Korean rapper participated in anti-American protests several years ago.

A spokesman says Friday that the Obama family will attend the Dec. 21 Christmas in Washington concert, as is custom. News reports cite two instances of the 34-year-old "Gangnam Style" rapper participating in protests protesting the U.S. military presence in South Korea during the early stages of the war in Iraq.

In a 2004 concert, PSY performs another act's song about killing "Yankees" who have been torturing Iraqi captives and their families "slowly and painfully."



In this Monday, Dec. 3, 2012 file photo, PSY arrives at KIIS FM's Jingle Ball at Nokia Theatre LA Live, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

PSY's inescapable hit went viral in the U.S. and holds the YouTube record for most watched video. A message left with his spokeswoman was not immediately returned. □

## Filmmaker returns to his 'hood for Christmas movie



This undated publicity image released by Tribeca Film shows Edward Burns, left, and Connie Britton in "The Fitzgerald Family Christmas," distributed by Tribeca Film. "The Fitzgerald Family Christmas," from filmmaker Edward Burns, is in limited release beginning Friday, Dec. 7, 2012, in theaters after debuting on iTunes and video on demand. Associated Press

LYNN ELBER

AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Filmmaker-actor Edward Burns is drawing inspiration from familiar ground and new sources, including Tyler Perry. Burns' latest movie, "The Fitzgerald Family Christmas," stems from Perry's suggestion that Burns revisit the Irish-American experience central to his earliest works, "The Brothers McMullen" and "She's the One," from the mid-1990s. Perry served as impromptu career counselor during production of his own change-of-pace crime drama "Alex Cross," which co-stars Burns.

"If you make another film that goes back to that (familiar) world ... I guarantee you that your audience will thank you for it," Burns recalled Perry telling him.

Burns took the advice to heart and pounded out a first draft for "The Fitzgerald Family Christmas" in six weeks, a fraction of his usual six months.

The film, opening in limited release in theaters Friday and available from iTunes and video on demand, features Burns as the oldest sibling in a family abandoned two decades ago by dad Big Jim Fitzgerald (Ed Lauter).

The wayward parent's desire to return home during the holidays is a shock for his grown children, each of whom is facing challenges, and provokes a torrent of bitterness from his wife (Ani-

ta Gillette).

"Christmas is a time for families getting together, and when families get together it can be tricky," Burns said. "I think forgiveness is a big part of a successful holiday season." The cast is filled with veterans of Burns' other films, including Connie Britton and Michael McGlone.

A native of Queens, N.Y., Burns had resisted mining his Irish-American heritage again partly because he feared being seen as a "one-trick pony." "And my life had changed so dramatically since those first two films that I wanted to explore my new life," he said. "I also think I was worried whether I could write about that place and those characters with the same authenticity as when I lived there."

Burns, married to model and activist Christy Turlington and the father of two, found he'd remained connected with his home turf and those who people it.

"I never had to give a second thought to, 'How do they think, where do they drink,'" said Burns.

For the record, Burns said "bigger plot points" aren't pulled from real life — "I would like to have a much better Christmas experience than the Fitzgeralds had to suffer through" — although he draws from environment and family conversations. He even filmed in the neighborhood where he grew up.

The movie's distribution rep-

resents another reversal for Burns, who's taken to putting his work online instead of in theaters, a welcome option for independent films lacking an expensive marketing push.

It was a holiday movie void that led Burns to couple the on-demand and iTunes availability of "Fitzgerald" with a big-screen release, starting in cities including New York and Boston.

"If we blow them away, we hit the 'burbs. If not, we'll play in a handful of markets," Burns said, philosophically. (The film is rated R for a handful of expletives.) Keeping one foot in the past, he just started writing a sequel to "The Brothers McMullen" and hopes to begin production on it in 2014. But next up is something entirely new, a dozen short online films that ultimately will be woven into a single one. "When all 12 chapters are done, we'll pull them from the Web, recut and play with them and maybe even play with the ending," Burns said. The project, titled "Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall," follows the relationship of a middle-aged couple.

Although Burns has been distributing his work online since he released "Purple Violets" on iTunes in 2007, it's Louis C.K.'s successful online sale of his 2011 comedy special, "Live at the Beacon Theater," that is behind the especially bold approach. "If it's inspired by anything, it's inspired by Louis C.K.," Burns said. □



# Santorum Strikes



**GAIL COLLINS**  
© 2012 New York Times

Lately, you've probably been asking: "What ever happened to Rick Santorum? The guy who ran for president in the sweater vest? The one who compared homosexuality to bestiality and did 50 pushups every morning?" It's certainly been on my mind.

Santorum is still in there swinging. Lately, he's been on a crusade against a dangerous attempt by the United Nations to help disabled people around the world. This week, he won! The Senate refused to ratify a U.N. treaty on the subject.

The vote, which fell five short of the necessary two-thirds majority, came right after 89-year-old Bob Dole, the former Republican leader and disabled war veteran, was wheeled into the chamber to urge passage.

"We did it," Santorum tweeted in triumph.

Well, it doesn't get any better than that.

The rejected treaty, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is based on the Americans with Disabilities Act, the landmark law Dole co-sponsored. So, as Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts kept pointing out during the debate, this is a treaty to make the rest of the world behave more like the United States. But Santorum was upset about a section on children with disabilities that said: "The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration."

"This is a direct assault on us and our family!" he said at a news conference in Washington.

OK.

The hard right has a thing about the United Nations. You may remember that the senator-elect from Texas, Ted Cruz, once railed that a 20-year-old nonbinding U.N. plan for sustainable development posed a clear and present threat to U.S. golf courses.

The theory about the treaty on the disabled is that the bit about "best interests of the child" could be translated into laws prohibiting disabled children from being home-schooled.

At his news conference, Santorum acknowledged that wasn't in the cards. But he theorized that someone might use the treaty in a lawsuit "and through the court

system begin to deny parents the right to raise their children in conformity with what they believe."

If I felt you were actually going to worry about this, I would tell you that the Senate committee that approved the treaty included language specifically forbidding its use in court suits. But, instead, I will tell you about own my fears. Every day I take the subway to work, and I use a fare card that says "subject to applicable tariffs and conditions of use." What if one of those conditions is slave labor? Maybe the possibility of my being grabbed at the turnstile and carted off to a salt mine isn't in the specific law, but what if a bureaucrat somewhere in the Metropolitan Transportation Authority decided to interpret it that way?

No one should have to live in fear of forced labor in the salt mine just because she bought a fare card at the Times Square subway station! I want some action on this matter, and I am writing to my senator right away.

But about the U.N. treaty.

In the Capitol this week, disabled Americans lobbied for ratification, arguing, among other things, that it could make life easier for them when they travel. Since more than 125 countries have already signed onto the treaty, there will certainly be pressure to improve accessibility to buses, restrooms and public buildings around the globe. It would be nice if the United States were at the table, trying to make sure the international standards were compatible with the ones our disabled citizens learn to handle here at home.

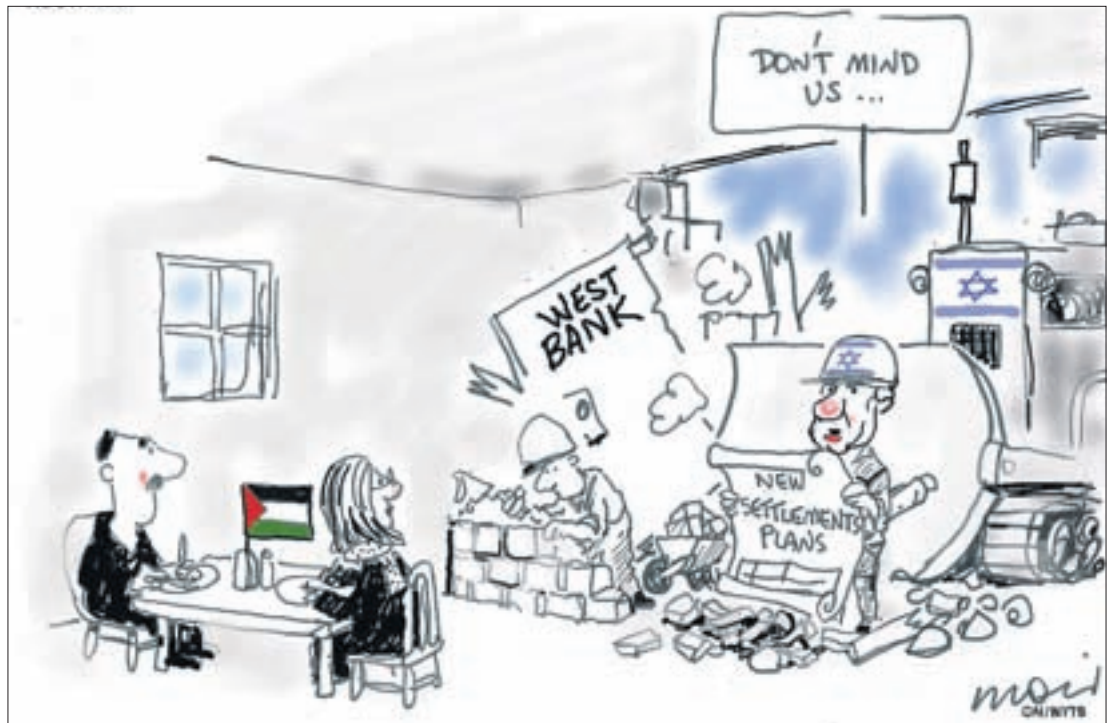
But, no, the senators were worried about the home-school movement. Or a boilerplate mention in the treaty of economic, social and cultural rights that Sen. Mike Lee of Utah claimed was "part of a march toward socialism."

At least some of them were. There would almost certainly have been plenty of votes to approve the treaty if the Republicans had felt free to think for themselves. The "no" votes included a senator who had voted for the treaty in committee, a senator who had sent out a press release supporting the treaty and a senator who actually voted "aye" and then switched when it was clear the treaty was going down anyway. Not to mention a lot of really depressed-looking legislators.

The big worry was, of course, offending the tea party. The same tea party that pounded Mitt Romney into the presidential candidate we came to know and reject over the past election season.

The same tea party that keeps threatening to wage primaries against incumbents who don't do what they're told. The tea party who made those threats work so well in the last election that Indiana now has a totally unforeseen Democratic senator.

The threat the Republicans need to worry about isn't in the United Nations. □



# Iron Empires, Iron Fists, Iron Domes



**THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN**  
© 2012 New York Times

TEL AVIV, Israel – I went to synagogue Saturday not far from the Syrian border in Antakya, Turkey. It's been on my mind ever since.

Antakya is home to a tiny Jewish community, which still gathers for holidays at the little Sephardic synagogue. It is also famous for its mosaic of mosques and Orthodox, Catholic, Armenian and Protestant churches. How could it be that I could go to synagogue in Turkey on Saturday while on Friday, just across the Orontes River in Syria, I had visited with Sunni Free Syrian Army rebels embroiled in a civil war in which Syrian Alawites and Sunnis are killing each other on the basis of their ID cards, Kurds are creating their own enclave, Christians are hiding and the Jews are long gone?

What is this telling us? For me, it raises the question of whether there are just three governing options in the Middle East today: Iron Empires, Iron Fists or Iron

Domes?

The reason that majorities and minorities co-existed relatively harmoniously for some 400 years when the Arab world was ruled by the Turkish Ottomans from Istanbul was because the Sunni Ottomans, with their Iron Empire, monopolized politics. While there were exceptions, generally speaking the Ottomans and their local representatives were in charge in cities like Damascus, Antakya and Baghdad. Minorities, like Alawites, Shiites, Christians and Jews, though second-class citizens, did not have to worry that they'd be harmed if they not did not rule. The Ottomans had a live-and-let-live mentality toward their subjects.

When Britain and France carved up the Ottoman Empire in the Arab East, they forged the various Ottoman provinces into states – with names like Iraq, Jordan and Syria – that did not correspond to the ethnographic map. So Sunnis, Shiites, Alawites, Christians, Druze, Turkmen, Kurds and Jews found themselves trapped together inside national boundaries that were drawn to suit the interests of the British and French.

Those colonial powers kept everyone in check. But once they withdrew, and these countries became independent, the contests for power began, and minorities were exposed. Fi-

nally, in the late 1960s and 1970s, we saw the emergence of a class of Arab dictators and monarchs who perfected Iron Fists (and multiple intelligence agencies) to decisively seize power for their sect or tribe – and they ruled over all the other communities by force.

In Syria, under the Assad family's iron fist, the Alawite minority came to rule over a Sunni majority, and in Iraq, under Saddam's iron fist, a Sunni minority came to rule over a Shiite majority. But these countries never tried to build real "citizens" who could share and peacefully rotate in power. So what you are seeing today in the Arab awakening countries – Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Yemen – is what happens when there is no Iron Empire and the people rise up against the iron-fisted dictators. You are seeing ongoing contests for power – until and unless someone can forge a social contract for how communities can share power.

Israelis have responded to the collapse of Arab iron fists around them – including the rise of militias with missiles in Lebanon and Gaza – with a third model. It is the wall Israel built around itself to seal off the West Bank coupled with its Iron Dome anti-missile system. The two have been phenomenally successful – but at a price. □



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